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The Immortal Elvis

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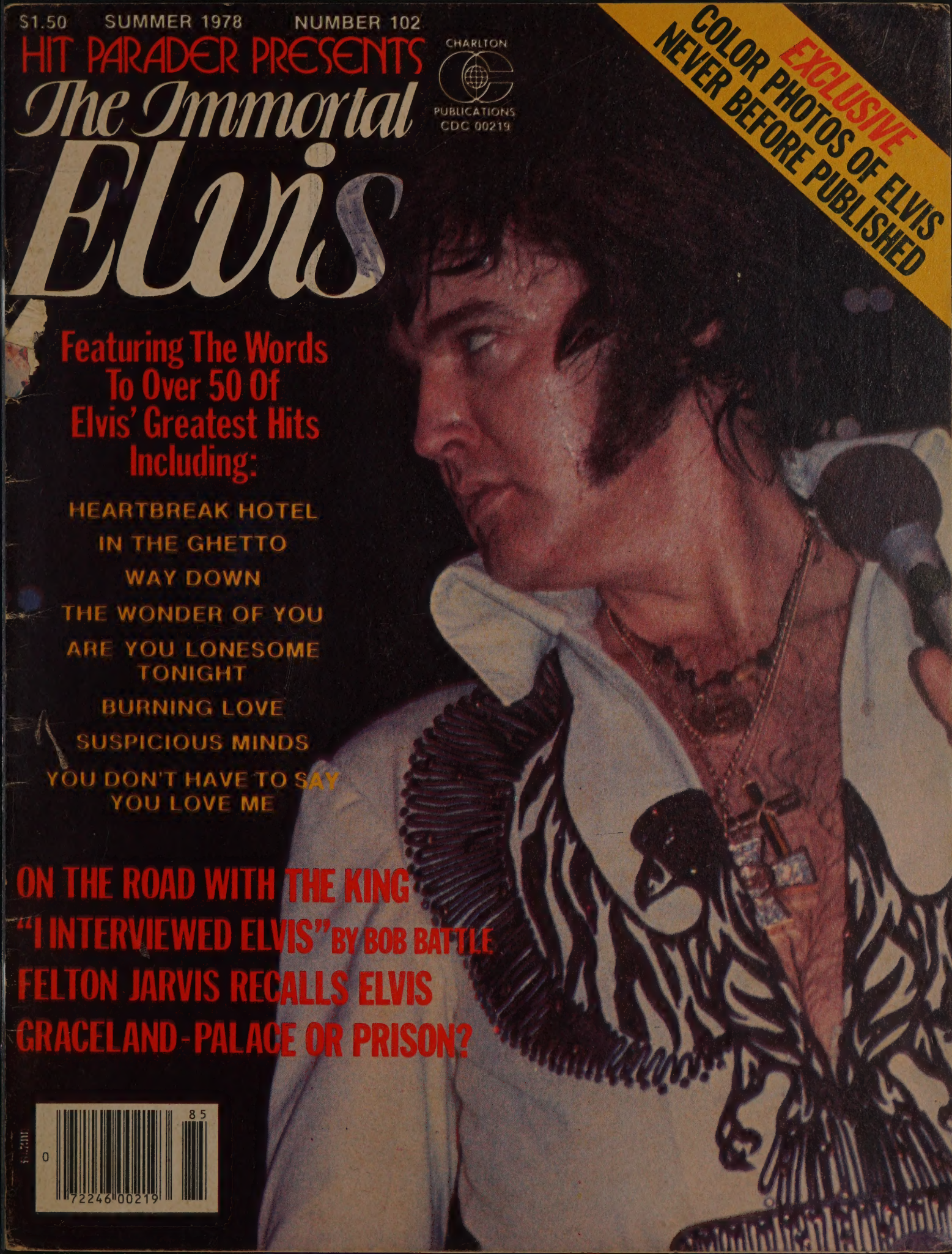
YOU DON'T HAVE TO SAY YOU LOVE ME

ON THE ROAD WITH THE KING
"I INTERVIEWED ELVIS" BY BOB BATTLE
FELTON JARVIS RECALLS ELVIS
GRACELAND - PALACE OR PRISON?



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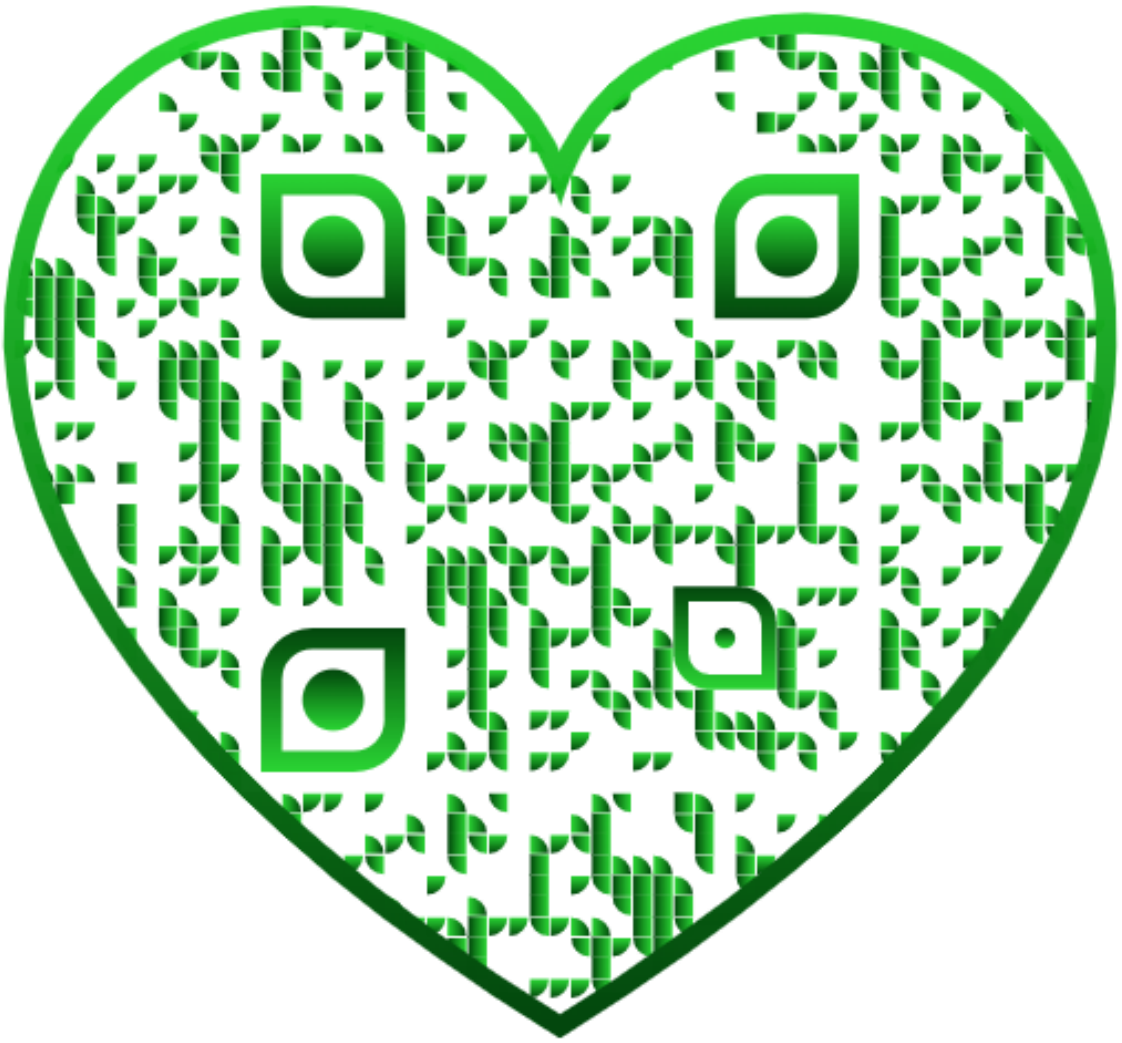

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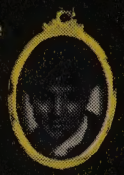

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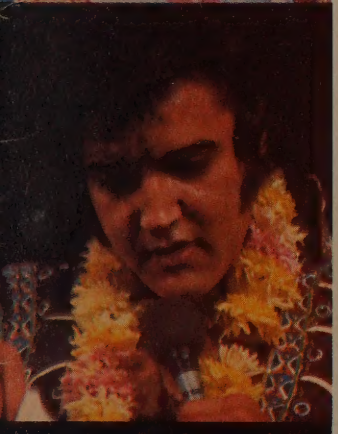
HIT PARADER PRESENTS The Immortal Elvis



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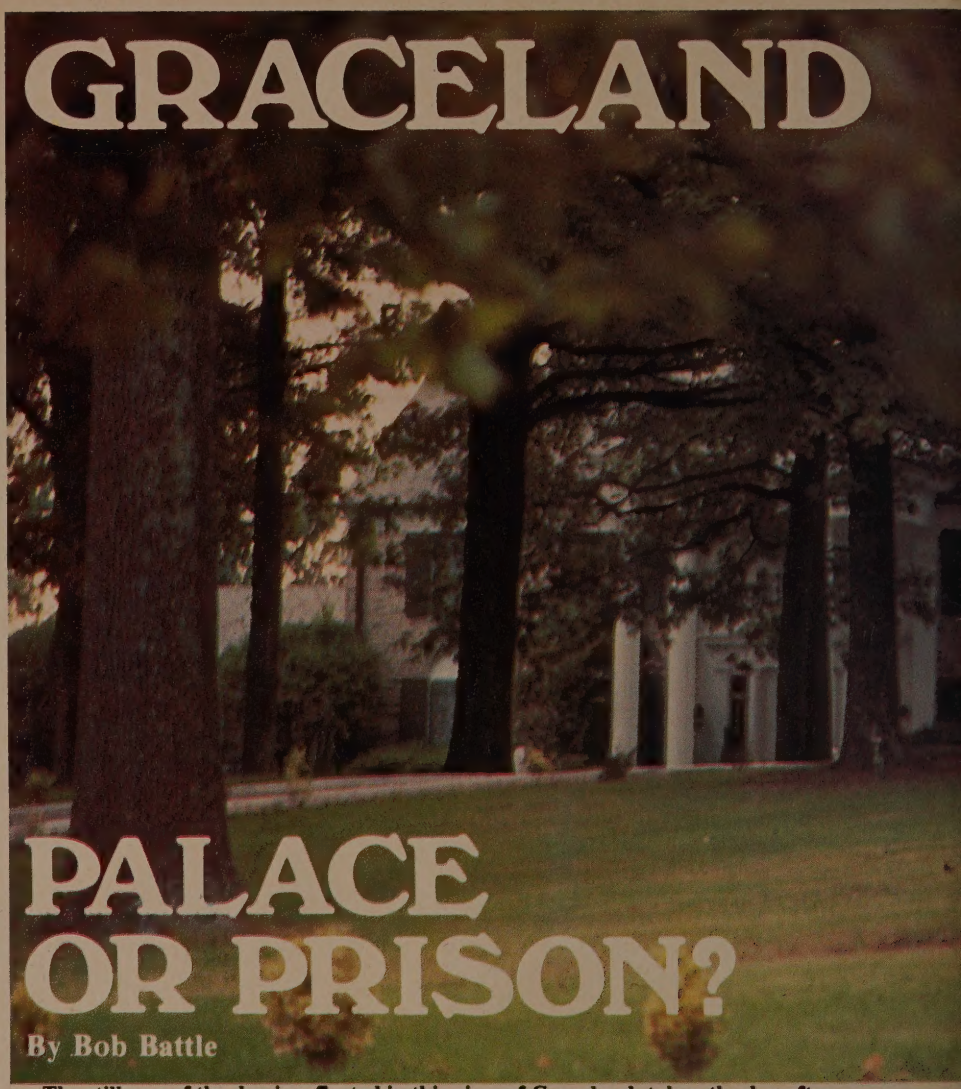
GRACELAND



PALACE OR PRISON?

By Bob Battle

The stillness of the day is reflected in this view of Graceland, taken the day after Elvis' death — August 17, 1977.

With white wrought-iron gates of security adorned with green metal guitars, Elvis Presley's beloved Graceland — an 18-room graceful colonial mansion — was everything one would expect the stone castle of the King to be.

Less than a hundred miles — and a miracle — separated the fabulously rich, gifted Memphis entertainer from his small frame birthplace in the heart of cotton country and the luxurious 13.8-acre estate he called "home."

He lived a life of opulence in the seclusion that had been so important to him in his last years.

And, in death, Elvis and his mother are buried side by side in the beautiful Meditation Garden, south of the fieldstone mansion. At the foot of the graves is a Corinthian-style temple with eight white columns and four stained-glass windows depicting religious scenes.

At the head of the graves is a small fountain. And between the garden and the mansion one glimpses the turquoise sparkle of the swimming pool, oddly festive — reminiscent of the days it served as a mecca for the late entertainer's family and Memphis "Mafia."

As the singer said, Elvis has made the journey from Graceland to the Promised Land.

Ah, Graceland!

What a fascinating name ... Elvis thought so. And he loved the estate from the moment he set eyes upon its boundaries lo those many years ago — never dreaming that one day those 13.8 acres and all it beheld would be his proud possession.

In 1957 — as success began to knock hard on his door — he returned to the scene with his mother for a closer inspection.

Then he surprised her by buying the property from Mrs. Ruth Brown Moore for $100,000, and immediately turned interior decorator with some strong ideas of his own. He sold his previous Memphis home for $55,000.

Even before the ink on the deed was dry, the "King" of rock 'n' roll — the singer-performer whose swiveling hips drove bobby-soxers into a frenzy — had told his closest friends:

"I want the darkest blue there is for my room — with a mirror that will cover one side of the room.

"I probably will have a black bedroom suite, trimmed in white leather, with a white rug.

"The entrance hall will be decorated with a sky effect — tiny lights for stars, and clouds painted on the ceiling."

And over the mild objections of his mother, Gladys Presley, Elvis ordered purple walls with gold trim for the living room, dining room, and sun room. There were white corduroy drapes.

And over the years, as Elvis' style changed, so did his thoughts on interior decorating.

The mansion was expanded. His "throne" became one of red velvet — and gold and white. Now his "stable" held a baker's dozen of expensive and vintage cars, although he left the driving to others. And motorcycles were all about.

In latter years, the man whose motion was his mystique lived in a flamboyantly decorated "castle" among Louis XIV furniture, figurines of all sorts, and one or more television sets in almost every room. In some areas, there were stained red windows, and walls painted with peacocks.

In the living room, floor-to-ceiling drapes hang on push-button, electric traverse rods. A fireplace of smoky, molded glass dominates an entire wall.

In the dining room, a star-shaped chandelier hangs above a walnut table.

For the music room, there is an ivory grand piano and an ivory TV set. Famous for his guitar, Elvis also played the piano very capably.

A $40,000 expanded kitchen allowed Elvis to add a sun porch above it. Elvis' private suite on the second floor opens onto the large porch.

The game-room is equipped with a soda fountain, complete with soft-drink signs.

Lawn furniture and a jukebox set beside the swimming pool.

And behind the mansion are the offices for father, Vernon Presley, and secretaries. For years Mr. Presley has handled Elvis' Memphis correspondence and business — including investments.

Relaxing on a 20-foot gold and white sofa in his Graceland living room, Elvis once summed up his fantastic career and his graceful residence in one characteristically short sentence:

"We've come a long way from Tupelo."

It was a journey the experts said he'd never complete.

But the "overnight sensation," whose slight curl of his sensuous lip caused teenagers to scream in ecstasy, proved the "experts" wrong. He climbed to his throne as king and potentate of pop music — a post he held when death struck the afternoon of August 16, 1977.

Guests to Graceland would drive south of Memphis to Whitehaven, where they would enter the grounds at 3674 Elvis Presley Boulevard, and take the winding driveway to the front of the mansion.

Four white pillars, with shuttered windows on each of the two floors and elaborate iron grillwork to insure privacy, take the visitor back to Plan-

Photo by: Don Foster

tation Days in the Old South.

There is luxury inside the palatial house which might well have been drawn from the set of one of the late singer's Las Vegas spectaculars.

Scarlet carpets lead hallways to large and ornate rooms. Here, in the foyer and music room, Elvis' body lay in state and was in repose for funeral services.

When you enter the foyer at the front door, Elvis' music room is to the right — a far cry from the Tupelo shack and his $2.98 guitar. The living room is on the left. Actually, it's almost like one huge, long room.

To the rear of the living room is the massive dining room, where perhaps a dozen of Elvis' family and friends sat for the nightly evening meal.

Needless to say, the adjoining kitchen was the center of considerable downstairs activity, with Elvis keeping a well-done pot roast on the stove practically around the clock.

And he drank only bottled water from Arkansas. He was a "night person" and a late sleeper, but was never to be found dining out or nightclubbing.

So the kitchen played a major role in his day's routine. To its left — and down a hallway — was the apartment of lead guitarist Charlie Hodge, who also sang harmony with Presley.

To the rear of the main first-floor rooms is the recreational room, where Elvis and his buddies — and even the family — shot pool and played pinball machines.

Access to living quarters on the second floor could be gained several ways: by a winding stairway in the living room area, or by steps or an elevator near the patio.

His grandmother, Mrs. Minnie Mae Presley, also had an apartment on the second floor. Father, Vernon, in recent years has lived in a modern house he purchased on a side street, adjoining the Graceland estate.

The recording studio — an elaborate facility installed in the basement in cooperation with RCA — was used several times by Presley, but from all reports he was dissatisfied with the sound. Part of his last album was cut in Nashville.

Apparently Elvis was a great television fan — judging from the inventory of his estate and from comments of friends. The kitchen had two, the basement three, and his bedroom four, including two in the ceiling over his 9-by-9-foot bed.

He had an extensive collection of guns at the mansion — at least 50, including three machine guns. He held a deputy's commission in Shelby County — and ranked as an expert on the Sheriff's firing range.

His taste in lighting fixtures ranged from cut-glass chandeliers to tiffany lamps.

The survey of Presley possessions — filed in Memphis Probate Court — shows that the 18-room home was furnished in a collection of Louis XIV and Louis XV sofas and dining-room pieces. The furniture, upholstered in red velour, matches red satin draperies.

Two arrangements of red feathers flank a brass wine cooler in the front hallway.

In his bedroom dressing area — where he was found dead — Presley had a standing scale, 55 jackets and shirts, a plaster statuette of a Roman athlete and one of a tiger, five hunting knives and daggers.

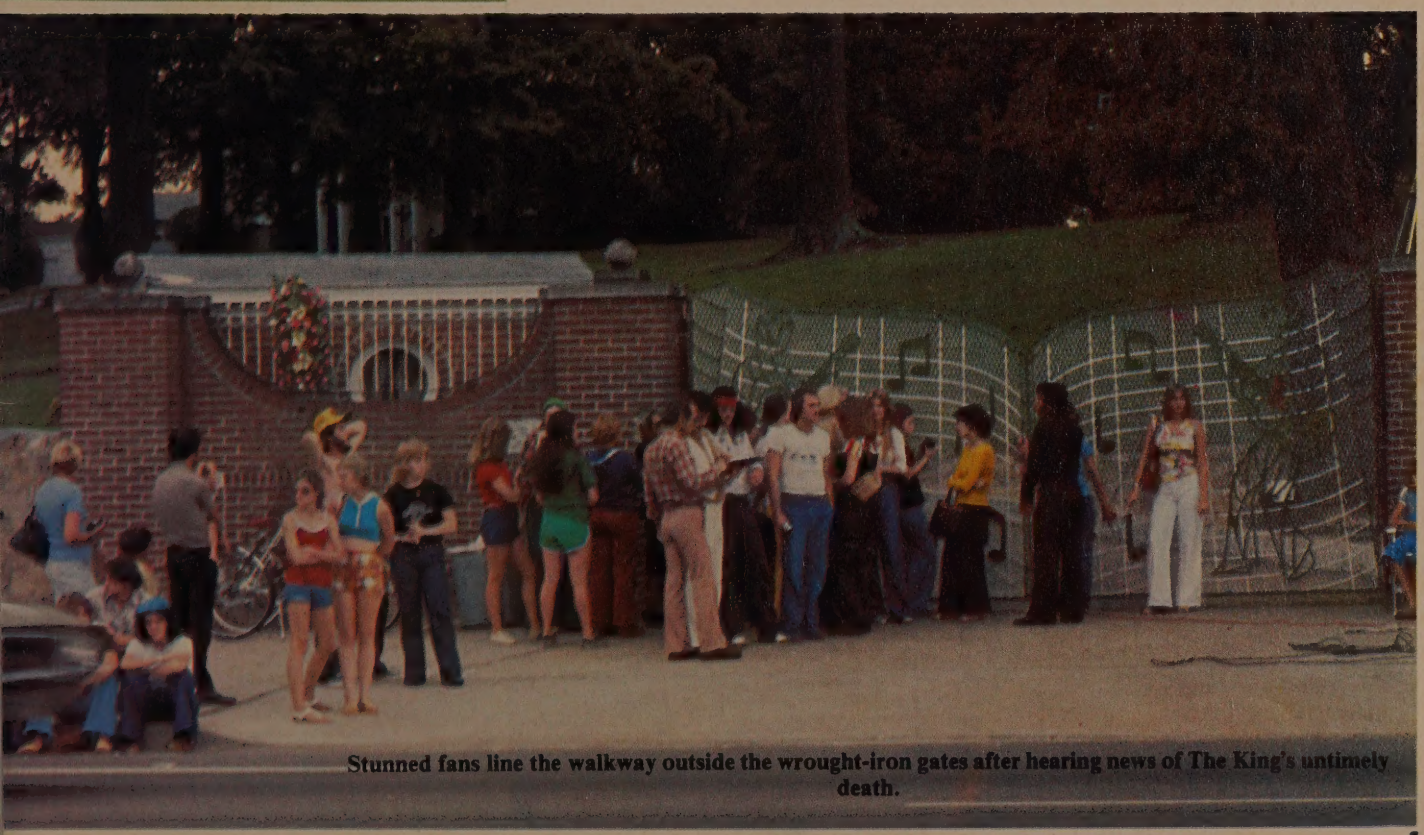


Photo by: Don Foster

Stunned fans line the walkway outside the wrought-iron gates after hearing news of The King's untimely death.

The bedroom for his daughter, Lisa, 9 heir to the fortune, is furnished with a king-size circular bed and yellow chest of drawers and a population of stuffed animals and dolls.

Out back of the house — to the left — is the massive garage which holds 13 automobiles (depending on size, of course). In addition to the late-model luxury vehicles, there is a 1973 Stutz Blackhawk Custom, a 1971 Stutz Blackhawk, a 1967 Black Ferrari Custom Sae A67, a 1955 Fleetwood Cadillac, and four jeep-like vehicles.

To the right of the house — and near the racquet courts — is the trophy room, which is best described by Felton Jarvis, the singer's record producer since 1962 and a long-time confidant and friend:

"We would go into what he called his 'Trophy Room' at Graceland. There, all over the walls, would be the records, the awards, and the plaques.

"Elvis would stare at them and say, 'Felton, this isn't me. This all belongs to somebody else'."

And so the Memphis rock 'n' roll pioneer — who gradually faded from the swinging "Elvis the Pelvis" into a clean-cut, clean-living entertainer who wouldn't drink or smoke — became one of America's most humble and appreciative superstars.

The city named a boulevard after him. And in between singing and acting dates, he came back to Memphis and his Graceland.

He became a phenomenon, a personage, the focus of hysteria that frightened even him sometimes. And Graceland became as famous as The President's Camp David.

Yet, he was troubled at times by some waspish stories which accused him of forgetting his fans.

"It's not true," he once said. "Of course, I don't get out like I used to before the old Army days. When I complete a movie or a record session, I head for Graceland as fast as I can.

"I withdraw not from my fans, but from myself.

"After work, I just give out. I like to go back to Memphis to think and relax.

"I guess in that respect, I have withdrawn, but there it's quiet — and I can re-evaluate myself and see where I am going..."

This genius of a singer — with a moody face, polite manners, and soft voice — once opened Graceland "to be neighborly."

"But it didn't work," he once said, without elaborating.

Souvenir hunters practically looted the place.

So he locked himself behind the wrought-iron gates of security — to be seen only by a select few until his death.

Now visitors can view the graves of Elvis and his mother from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. daily, except Monday.

But the trail doesn't lead guests to the mansion — only to the small courtyard with red-tile walkways, large white columns, and a pool with six fountains.

The spelling of Elvis' middle name has been changed on the bronze grave marker.

From birth, the singer was known as Elvis Aron Presley — with Aron spelled with one 'A.'

However, on the order of Presley's father, the spelling was changed to 'Aaron.' Vernon Presley said his son told him a few years ago, "I guess we just didn't know how to spell in those days."

Yes, Elvis Aaron Presley came a long way from Tupelo. And now he has completed his last trip — from Graceland to the Promised Land.

A tourist lucky enough to manage entry to the sprawling grounds stands in front of Graceland mansion in 1967.

THE MAN WHO CHANGED THE WORLD OF MUSIC

Photo Credit: Jim Morris/King's Court

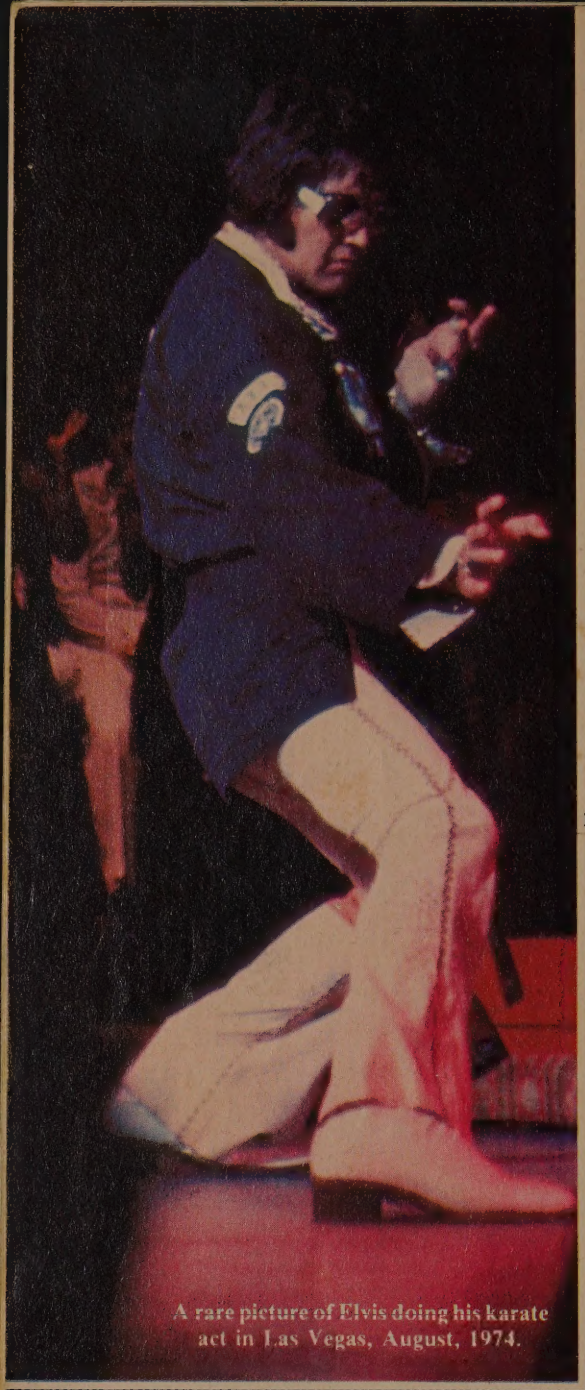
When the history of 20th-century pop music is written, Elvis Presley — once damned by the critics as a menace to American youth — will be inked in the pages of time as the entertainer who changed the world of music.

Just as surely as Picasso wrought changes in painting lo those many years ago, the poverty - reared country boy — born in a little house in Tupelo, Miss. -- set the path pop (and some other) music would take for the rest of our lifetimes.

The establishment was alarmed at first, but youngsters thrilled.

It may have been the first fissure of the generation gap we know today. Girls shrieked and swooned — and some sermons and editorials denounced his hip gyrations as turning music into sexual body talk.

But whatever, Elvis Aron Presley —



A rare picture of Elvis doing his karate act in Las Vegas, August, 1974.

the jiggling, jiving, rock 'n' roll King who refashioned America's music styles — rose from a $41 - a - week truck driver in 1954 to an institution, selling more than 250 million records and making 33 motion pictures in the process.

Elvis!

How many people are known around the world by their first names? Not bad for a Memphis, Tenn., boy who — like a shock wave — turned teenagers into strangers to their mothers and fathers.

Elvis — a legend at the age when most young people were figuring out what to do with their lives — burst upon this country of ours with the rockingest guitar and loosest hips America had ever seen. Everything afterwards was, one way or another, a carbon copy.

In Hunter Davies' biography of the Beatles, the influence of Presley on John Lennon and Paul McCartney is described: "Nothing really affected me until Elvis," Lennon said.

And similarly, McCartney said, "That was the biggest kick. Every time I felt low, I just put on an Elvis and I'd feel great, beautiful."

Suddenly — as if a bolt from the Heavens — the King was dead, leaving the world's greatest legacy of music. He had lived just 42 years, seven months and eight days.

It was an exciting but frustrating life which ended August 16, 1977, in Memphis' Baptist Hospital, where Elvis was pronounced dead at 3:30 p.m. of a heart attack.

Across the nation, radio stations switched to playing his million - seller gold records. In Europe, Radio Luxembourg announced Presley's death and then began a long program of his music. Most all stations played his "golden oldies."

The King was gone — but not forgotten.

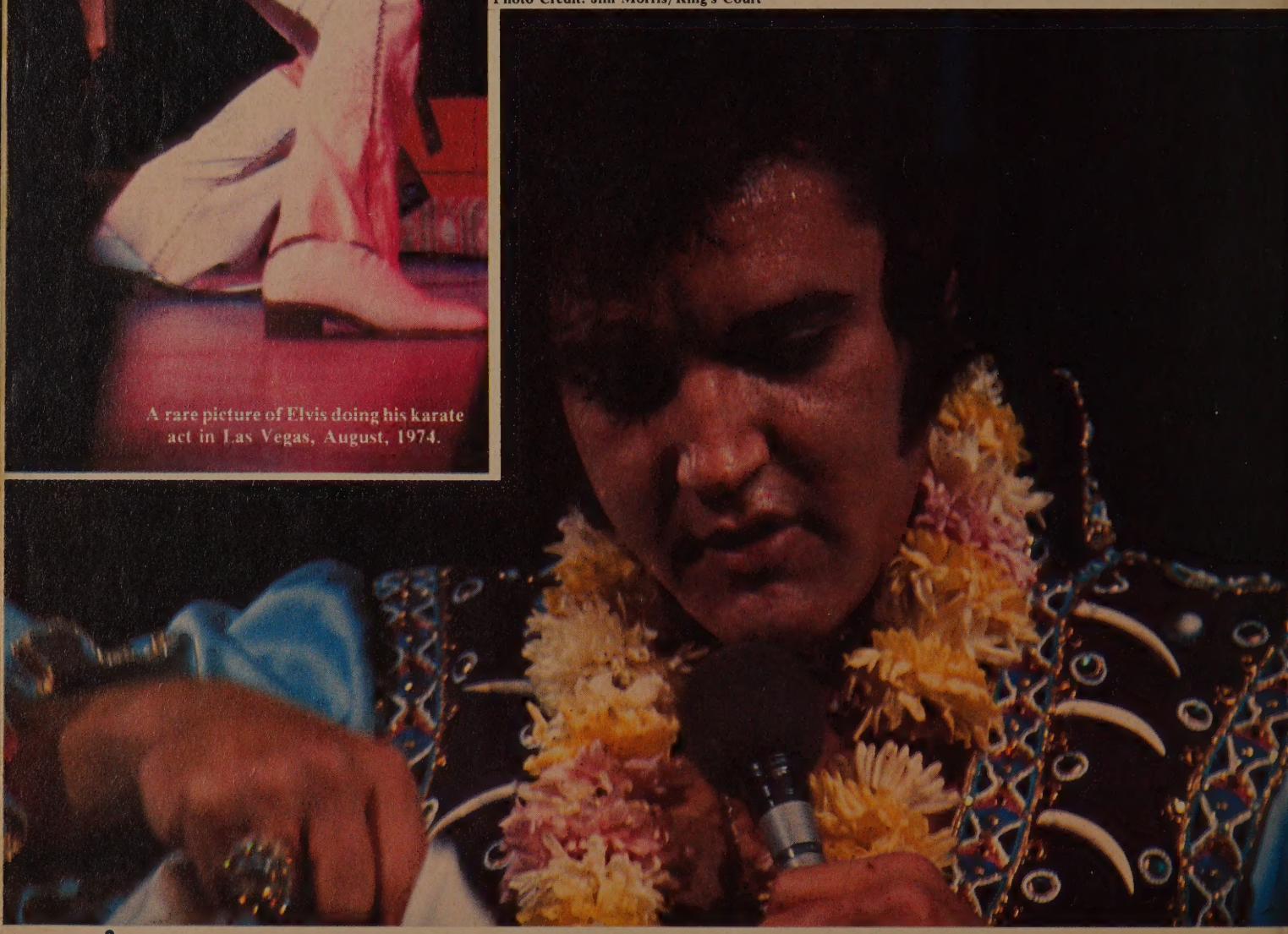
Elvis Presley — who made millions of dollars and literally was worshiped by millions of fans — lived a lonesome life much of the time, paying a high price for privacy.

The Presley epic started in a small frame house where he was born in Tupelo, Miss. Now an Elvis shrine, the house was built by his father and grandfather. He was the surviving member of twin boys whom his mother, Gladys Presley, named Elvis Aron and Jessie Garon. His twin died in infancy.

Elvis was grief - stricken when his

(continued on page 20)

Photo Credit: Jim Morris/King's Court



KING'S COURT OFFICIALS JIM & PAT MORRIS WITH ELVIS — 1973

The King's Court

Elvis Presley Appreciation Society

HIS LEGEND WILL LIVE FOREVER

Dear Fellow Elvis Fan,

The King's Court was formed in the latter part of 1972 to help promote Elvis and to give information and quality materials to those who supported him. Through the years we remained on top of Col. Parker's list of clubs. Our efforts were well rewarded with a personal meeting with Elvis. (Photo opposite)

The years were good to us, we travelled near and far to see Elvis perform and have many treasured memories. Elvis' tragic death stunned the world, but he will live forever in our hearts and our minds. His accomplishments in the music field will never be forgotten and probably never surpassed. The King's Court Appreciation Society will help preserve the many memories Elvis left us with. For those fortunate enough to have seen Elvis, perhaps they could relive their experiences and for those who never saw him, perhaps they could come to understand what the Elvis Presley legend is all about. We have a lot of exclusive material to offer. We would like to share experiences, photos and information on records, memorials, etc. We hope you will become active and share yours also through the club. A "Buy, Sell and Trade" classified section will enable fans to share and obtain Elvis memorabilia for their collections. A one year membership consists of:

1. Membership Card With "IN CONCERT" Photo
2. 4-8x10 B&W "NEVER BEFORE SEEN" Excellent Photos Of The King In Action, Suitable For Framing
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5. A Commemoration Florescent Auto Bumper Sticker Featuring 2 Dynamic Photos And The Words "WE'LL REMEMBER YOU"
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7. We Provide 1st Class Mailing Service Only!

All of our material is guaranteed to be of top quality. Yearly dues for membership in our society are $6.00 U.S. and Canada or $8.00 Foreign. The King's Court Elvis Presley Appreciation Society is a must for all Elvis fans. Elvis the King Still Rocks On!

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To Fellow Elvis Fans, The King And His Court Still Reign

Please Forward My One Year's Membership And Bonus Photo

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HEARTBREAK HOTEL

MAE BOREN AXTON
TOMMY DURDEN
ELVIS PRESLEY

Since my baby left me, found a new place to dwell
Down at the end of lonely street at Heartbreak Hotel
I get so lonely baby
I get so lonely
I get so lonely I could die.

Although it's always crowded still can find some room
Where those broken hearted lovers, cry away their gloom, oh!
I get so lonely
I get so lonely
Get so lonely I could die.

Bellhop's tears keep flowing, desk clerks dressed in black
They been so long on lonely street they ain't never gonn' come back oh!
I get so lonely
I get so lonely
Get so lonely I could die.

If your baby leaves you and you have a tale to tell
Just take a walk down lonely street to Heartbreak Hotel
I get so lonely baby
I get so lonely
I get so lonely I could die.

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MONEY HONEY

JESSE STONE

The landlord rang my front door bell
I let him ring for a long, long spell
I went to the window and peeped thru the blind
And asked him to tell me what was on his mind.

He said money honey, money honey, money honey
If you wanna stay here with me.

I was clean as a screen and so hard pressed
I called the one that I love best
I finally got my baby 'bout half past three
She said "I'd like to know what you want with me."

I said money honey, money honey, money honey
If you wanna get along with me.

She screamed and said "What's wrong with you?
From this day on our romance is thru"
I said "Tell me baby face to face how could another man take my place."

She said money honey, money honey, money honey
If you wanna get along with me.

Now I've learned my lesson
And now I know the sun may shine
And the winds may blow
Women may come and women may go
But before I'll say I love 'em so
I want money honey, money honey, money honey
If you wanna get along with me.

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RAISED ON ROCK

MARK JAMES

I remember as a child I used to hear music that they played with a feel
Some called it folk, some called it soul
(But) People, let me tell you it was rock and roll.
I was raised on rock
Got that rhythm in my soul
Ev'ry day when I got home I turned on my radio
And listened to the music that my, my idols made
I knew ev'ry single record the DJ's played
From Honky Tonk, Hound Dog, Johnny B. Goode, Chain Gang, Love Is Strange, Knock On Wood
I was raised on rock
Got that rhythm in my soul
I was born to love the beat of a thing called rock and roll.
Some thought it was a fad, thought it would pass
But the younger generation knew it would last
Time's gone by and the beat goes on
Ev'ry time I hear it, it takes me home.
(Repeat chorus)

Mother played me recordings of Beethoven's Fifth, Mozart's Sonatas, down the classical list
My papa loved to listen to those country songs
While I was in the back room digging the Stones.
I was raised on rock
Got that rhythm in my soul
I was born to love the beat of a thing called rock and roll.

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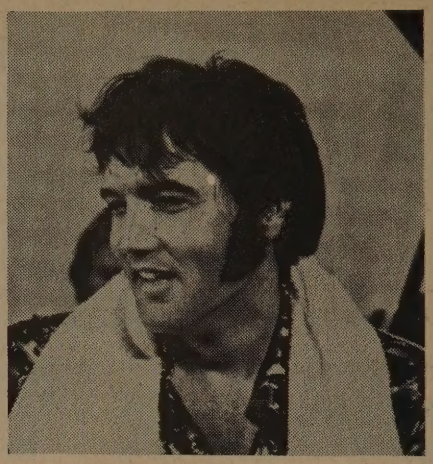

HOW GREAT THOU ART

STUART K. HINE

O Lord my God! When I in awesome wonder
Consider all the worlds* Thy hands have made,
I see the stars, I hear the rolling* thunder,
Thy power throughout the universe displayed.

Then sings my soul, my Savior God to Thee:
How great Thou art! How great Thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior God to Thee:
How great Thou art! How great Thou art!

When through the woods and forest glades I wander
And hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees,
When I look down from lofty mountain grandeur
And hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze.

And when I think that God, His Son not sparing,
Sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in;
That on the cross, my burden gladly bearing,
He bled and died to take away my sin.

When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation
And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!
Then I shall bow in humble adoration
And there proclaim, my God how great Thou art!

*Author's original words are "Works" and "Mighty."

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SUSPICIOUS MINDS

FRED ZANBON

We're caught in a trap
I can't walk out
Because I love you too much baby
But why can't you see what you're doing to me
When you don't believe a word I say
We can't go on together with suspicious minds
And we can't build our dreams on suspicious minds
So if an old friend I know drops by to say hello
Would I still see suspicion in your eyes
But here we go again asking where I've been
And you can't see these tears are real I'm crying
We can't go on together with suspicious minds
And we can't build our dreams on suspicious minds
Won't you let our love survive or dry the tears from your eyes
But let's don't let a good thing die
When honey you know I never lied to you
Mm, mm, mm, mm, yeah, yeah.

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THE MIRACLE OF THE ROSARY

LEE DENSON

Oh Blessed Mother, we pray to Thee
Thanks for the Miracle of your rosary
Only you can hold back your holy son's hand
Long enough for the whole world to understand.

Saint Mary, full of grace
The Lord is with thee
Blessed art thou amongst women
And blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus
Oh holy Mary, dear mother of God
Please, pray for us sinners
Now and at the hour of our death
And thanks once again for The Miracle of the Rosary.

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(Now And Then, There's) A FOOL SUCH AS I

BILL TRADER

Pardon me, if I'm sentimental when we say goodbye
Don't be angry with me, should I cry
When you're gone, yet I'll dream a little dream as years go by
Now and then, there's a fool such as I.

Now and then, there's a fool such as I am over you
You taught me how to love and now you say that we are through
I'm a fool, but I'll love you, dear, until the day I die
Now and then, there's a fool such as I.

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SUSAN WHEN SHE TRIED

DON REID

I got over Charlotte Thompson, Goldie Johnson
Lord they done me wrong
I took it hard with Peggy Harper she hurt me bad
But not for long
There's just one I remember makes me feel funny down inside
I'd trade 'em all for just an hour of Susan when she tried.

No there's never been a woman
Who could make me weak inside
And give me what I needed
Like Susan when she tried.

It gets worse in the summer
When the nights are hot and long
And it's bad in December
When they play those Christmas songs
So if you ask me and I don't tell
You bet your sweet bottom dollar I lied
'Cause there's never been one better
Than Susan when she tried.

No there's never been a woman
Who could make me weak inside
And give me what I needed
Like Susan when she tried.

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DON'T CRY DADDY

MAC DAVIS

Today I stumbled from my bed
With thunder crashing in my head
My pillow still wet from last night's tears
And as I tried to sober up
A voice inside my coffee cup
Kept crying out and raging in my ears.

Don't cry Daddy
Daddy please don't cry
Daddy you've still got me and little Tommy
Together we'll find a brand new mommy
Daddy, Daddy, please laugh again
Daddy ride us on your back again
Oh, Daddy please don't cry.

Why are children always first
To feel the pain and hurt the worst
It's true, but somehow it just don't seem right
'Cause ev'ry time I cry I know
It hurts my little children so
I wonder will it be the same tonight.

Don't cry, Daddy
Daddy please don't cry
Daddy you've still got me and little Tommy
Together we'll find a brand new mommy
Daddy, Daddy, please laugh again
Daddy ride us on your back again
Oh, Daddy please don't cry
Oh, Daddy please don't cry.

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PLEDGING MY LOVE

DON D. ROBEY
F. WASHINGTON

Forever, my darling our love will be true
Always and forever I'll love just you
Just promise me darling your love in return
Make this fire in my soul, dear, forever burn
My heart's at your command, dear, to keep, love, and to hold
Making you happy's my desire dear
Keeping you is my goal
I'll forever love you, the rest of my days
I'll never part from you and your loving ways.

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YOU DON'T HAVE TO SAY YOU LOVE ME

DONAGGIO
PALLAVICINI
WICKMAN
NAPIER
BELL

When I said I needed you
You said you would always stay
It wasn't me who changed but you
And now you've gone away
Don't you see that now you've gone and
I'm left here on my own
That I have to follow you and beg you to come home.

You don't have to say you love me
Just be close at hand
You don't have to stay forever
I will understand
Believe me, believe me
I can't help but love you
But believe me, I'll never tie you down.

Left alone with just a memory
Life seems dead and so unreal
All that's left is loneliness
There's nothing left to feel.

You don't have to say you love me
Just be close at hand
You don't have to stay forever
I will understand
Believe me, believe me
You don't have to say you love me
Just be close at hand
You don't have to stay forever
I will understand
Believe me, believe me, believe me.

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WAY DOWN

LAYNG MARTINE JR.

Babe you're gettin' closer
The lights are goin' dim
The sound of your breathin'
Has made the mood I'm in
All of my resistance is lyin' on the floor
You're taking me to places
That I've never been before
Ohhh and I can feel it, I can feel it
I can feel it, I can feel it
Way down, way down where the music plays
Way down, way down like a tidal wave
Way down, way down where the fires blaze
Way down.

Ooo now my head is spinnin'
Ya got me in your spell
A hundred magic fingers
On a whirling carousel
The medicine within me, no doctor could prescribe
Your love is doin' something
That I just can't describe.

Hold me again, tight as you can
I need you so, baby lessa go
Way down, way down where it feels so good
Way down, way down where I hoped it would
Way down, way down where I never could
Way down.

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HOW DO YOU THINK I FEEL?

WEBB PIERCE
WAYNE P. WALKER

How do you think I feel
I know your love's not real
Another's pretty speeches but you're out of reach
How do you think I feel.

How do you think we stand
I know you've made your plan
But you're included free and that's too much for me
How do you think we stand
I won't be true again
I know that I can't win
So why should I pretend that you still love me
How do you think I feel
I know your love's not real
The girl I'm mad about is just a gad-a-bout
How do you think I feel.

How do you think I feel
I know your love's not real
The girl I'm mad about is just a gad-a-bout
How do you think I feel.

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AN AMERICAN TRILOGY

How I wish I was in the land of cotton
Old times they are not forgotten
Look away, look away, look away Dixieland
Oh I wish I was in Dixie away, away
In Dixieland I take my stand to live and die in Dixie
Cause Dixieland that's where I was born
Early Lord one frosty morning
Look away, look away, look away, Dixieland.

Glory, glory hallelujah
Glory, glory hallelujah
Glory, glory hallelujah
His truth is marching on.

So hush little children
Don't you cry
You know your daddy's bound to die
But all my trials Lord, soon be over.

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GREEN GREEN GRASS OF HOME

CURLY PUTMAN

The old home town looks the same as I step down from the train
And there to meet me is my Mama and Papa
And down the road I look and there runs
Mary hair of gold and lips like cherries
It's good to touch the green green grass of home
Yes they'll all come to meet me arms areaching smiling sweetly
It's good to touch the green green grass of home

The old house is still standing tho' the paint is cracked and dry
And there's that old oak tree that I used to play on
Down the lane I walk with my sweet
Mary hair of gold and lips like cherries
It's good to touch the green green grass of home

Then I awake and look around me at the grey walls that surround me
And I realize that I was only dreaming
For there's a guard and there's a sad old Padre arm and arm we'll walk
Again I'll touch the green green grass of home
Yes they'll all come to see me in the shade of that old oak tree
As they lay me 'neath the green green grass of home

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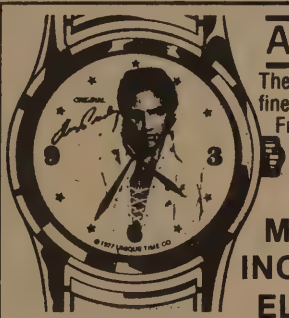

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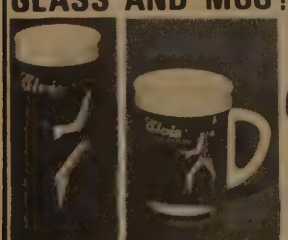

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His lips pursed in a half-pout, half-smile, Tennessee's biggest star stepped from a chartered Greyhound bus into 21-degree temperatures to discuss his goal in life.

It was beyond his reach.

"I'd like to have a son," said Elvis Presley, his breath forming misty clouds about the ardent fans who had braved the elements to meet "The King" outside RCA's Nashville studios that chilly night 13 years ago.

"That's my one B-I-G wish .... My one B-I-G desire."

But fate wasn't with him.

Elvis' seven-year courtship did wind up, however, in what seemed like an overnight decision with a diamond-bedecked marriage to Priscilla in Las Vegas in 1967 — just two years after our Nashville interview, in which Elvis told me:

"I play touch football on weekends — whether I'm in LA or in Memphis.

"I play with a team of us fellows each place. You might say that's something I've always wanted to be — a football player.

"When I do get married — and if I have a son — I'll probably have him on the 50-yard line by the time he's able to walk."

But that's not the way the world turns.

One day he showed Priscilla a ring, and simply asked her to marry him. That climaxed a long and completely private courtship which began when the attractive brunette met Elvis in West Germany during his bout in the service.

Priscilla's life with Elvis became an "empty luxury," and they were divorced in 1973. Later, she was to say that the time Elvis couldn't make an anniversary "became a way of life."

However, this was the furthest thing from Elvis' mind when he gave me an interview on February 25, 1965 — one of the few

I Interviewed ELVIS

by BOB BATTLE

such sessions he ever granted the news media.

The King eschewed throngs of paparazzi photographers and zealous journalists — and was intimidated by hungrily adoring fans who attempted to force their way into his life.

Probably no more than a dozen newspapermen ever interviewed the man who put 'roll' into rock 'n' roll. We were just lucky.

Our session had been arranged well in advance with Col. Tom Parker, Elvis' manager, who guided the king to his throne.

For a long time that night, Elvis — minus hat and overcoat — answered questions thrown to him, while signing autographs for his loyal but cold fans.

He joked a lot.

When asked to describe the "ideal" mate he sought, Elvis— that "flash in the pan" everybody thought wouldn't last one year — said:

"Teeth. Yeah, she's got to have teeth. I don't want a woman with false teeth.

"Hair? You mean blonde or brunette? Oh, it doesn't matter, really. I just want a wife without a wig. She's got to have her own hair."

He hee-hawed.

And his cronies — as if on signal — joined in.

"I'm a bit wary about mentioning names and dates," he added rather quickly. "But when I have time, I do have plenty of them."

And they all hee-hawed again.

"When I do get married," he added, "I'll go by the rule book. You can bet on that. I really mean it."

Now he became very serious, and his voice lowered.

"Kids would be a must.

"All my friends stay busy, trying to find their version of the right girl. They're all eager to get me hitched. But I'll do my own picking."

Elvis was running late when the huge blue and white bus screeched to a halt in front of the studios. But even after taking time to discuss his likes and dislikes in a "perfect mate," he hung around to talk about his acting career which was bringing him $1,000,000 a film, plus royalties.

Here was a singing star who was both entertainer and a man's man on the athletic field — quite a paradox, even for flickerland.

"I don't use stunt men," claimed the muscled Elvis. "I figure that's part of my career.

"In fact, that's as much my job as yours is pounding a typewriter. Why should I step aside and let someone assume part of my duties?"

He recalled that nine stitches had to be taken to seal up a head wound in a too realistic fight sequence for Paramount's *Roustabout*.

Ironically, it was a stunt man who accidentally clipped Elvis as they crashed to the ground.

Elvis knew how to fall and how to protect himself and others working in the scene with him. He was an expert on karate, and took his first lessons in Germany.

Says a friend, Gordon Stoker of the Jordanaires, who backed Presley on many occasions:

"He'd go to a lumberyard, get a hundred pieces of board, and then pop 'em in two with his hand till he got tired.

"One time, some girls were around while he was doing his karate bit.

"His pants ripped wide open. It really shook him. He snatched his shirt off, tied it around him like an apron, and yelled for somebody to bring him some more pants."

Elvis recalled the incident.

"I was scared to death," he said. "Nothing like that had happened before — except after a concert by some overly active fan."

We shook hands as the interview concluded, and Elvis walked toward RCA's back entrance.

Wild screams broke the chilly night air, and two Metro policemen had to stand guard at the door to prevent intruders from entering the recording session.

Slowly, I turned to walk away — tucking notes into a heavy, black overcoat pocket.

A man in his late 40s stepped in my path.

"Just a minute, Colonel Tom," he said. "I'd like for you to see a song I've..."

"Sorry, fellow, you've got the wrong Colonel," I answered, somewhat shyly.

Six feet later, a young teenager with bobby-sox stuck her autograph book and pencil in my face and asked smilingly:

"Colonel, would you sign my book? Elvis just did."

It was a night to remember.

And now, as I look back, I realize that Elvis Presley's biggest goal went unfilled.

Insofar as anyone ever knew, he didn't mention the subject again.

But deep inside, he wanted a son with whom to share his life.

ELVIS FANS!

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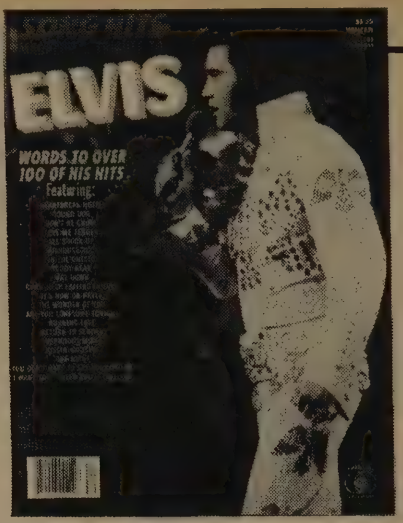

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'Blue Moon Over Kentucky
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'Burning Love

'Can't Help Falling In Love
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Do You Know Who I Am
Doncha' Think It's Time
Don't
Don't Ask Me Why
Don't Be Cruel (To A Heart That's True)
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Hawaiian Wedding Song, The
Heartbreak Hotel
Hound Dog
How Do You Think I Feel
How's The World Treating You

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I Got Stung
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I Love You Because
I Want You, I Need You, I Love You
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In The Ghetto
It's A Sin
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Jailhouse Rock
Johnny B. Goode

King Creole
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'Let It Be Me
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Love Me Tender
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'Mama
Mean Woman Blues
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Money Honey
Moody Blue
My Babe
My Boy
My Way

One Broken Heart For Sale
One Night
Only The Strong Survive

Pledging My Love
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Puppet On A String

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Viva Las Vegas

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Wear My Ring Around Your Neck
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BURNING LOVE

DENNIS LINDE

Lord almighty, I feel my temperature rising
Higher, higher, it's burning thru to my soul
Girl, girl, you've gone and set me on fire
My brain is flamin', I don't know which way to go.

And your kisses lift me higher
Like the sweet song of a choir
And you light my mornin' sky with burnin' love.

Oo ee, I feel my temperature rising
Help me, I'm flamin', it must be a hundred and nine
I'm burnin', burnin' and nothin' can cool me.

I'm coming closer, the flames are now lickin' my body
Won't you help me, I feel like I'm slippin' away
It's hard to breathe and my chest is a heavin'
Lord have mercy, I'm burnin' a hole where I lay.

(Repeat chorus)

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THE WONDER OF YOU

BAKER KNIGHT

When no one else can understand me
When everything I do is wrong
You give me love and consolation
You give me hope to carry on
And you try to show your love for me in everything you do
That's the wonder, the wonder of you.

And when you smile, the world is brighter
You touch my hand and I'm a king
Your kiss to me is worth a fortune
Your love to me is everything
And you're always there to lend a hand in all I try to do
That's the wonder, the wonder of you.

You'll never know how much I love you
My love is yours and yours alone
And it's so wonderful to have you
To have for my very own
Guess I'll never know the reason why you love me as you do
That's the wonder, the wonder of you.

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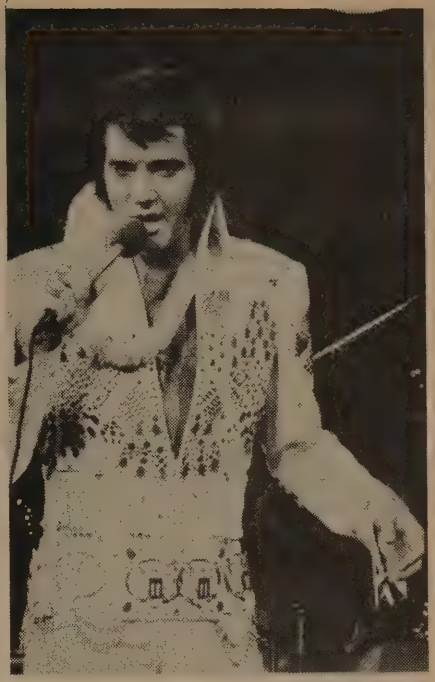

YOU'VE LOST THAT LOVIN' FEELIN'

PHIL SPECTOR
BARRY MANN
CYNTHIA WEIL

You never close your eyes any more
When I kiss your lips
And there's no tenderness like before in your fingertips
You're tryin' hard not to show it
But baby, baby I know it.

You've lost that lovin' feelin'
Woh, oh, that lovin' feelin'
You've lost that lovin' feelin'
Now it's gone, gone, gone, gone
Woh, oh, oh, oh.

Now there's no welcome look in your eyes
When I reach for you
And girl you're startin' to criticize
Little things I do
It makes me just feel like cryin'
'Cause baby, something beautiful's dyin!

Baby, baby I'd get down on my knees for you
If that would make you love me like you used to do
We had a love, a love you don't find everyday
Don't, don't, don't, don't
Let it slip away.

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MY WAY

PAUL ANKA
GILLES THIBAULT
J. REVAUX
C. FRANCOIS

And now the end is near and so I face the final curtain
My friend, I'll say it clear
I'll state my case of which I'm certain
I've lived a life that's full
I traveled each and ev'ry highway
And more, much more than this
I did it my way.

Regrets, I've had a few
But then again, too few to mention
I did what I had to do and saw it thru without exemption
I planned each chartered course, each careful step along the byway
And more, much more than this
I did it my way.

Yes, there were times, I'm sure you knew
When I bit off more than I could chew
But thru it all, when there was doubt
I ate it up and spit it out
I faced it all and I stood tall
And did it my way

I've loved, I've laughed and cried
I've had my fill, my share of losing
And now, as tears subside I find it all so amusing
To think I did all that, and may I say "Not in a shy way"
Oh no, oh no, not me, I did it my way.

For what is a man, what has he got
If not himself, then he has not
To say the things he truly feels

And not the words of one who kneels
The record shows I took the blows and did it my way.

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THE HAWAIIAN WEDDING SONG (Ke Kali Nei Au)

AL HOFFMAN
DICK MANNING
CHARLES E. KING

This is the moment I've waited for
I can hear my heart singing
Soon bells will be ringing
This is the moment of sweet "Aloha"
I will love you longer than forever
Promise me that you will leave me never
Here and now, dear, all my love I vow, dear
Promise me that you will leave me never
I will love you longer than forever
My darling, my love.

Now that we are one
Clouds won't hide the sun
Blue skies of Hawaii smile on this, our wedding day
I do love you with all my heart.

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I DON'T CARE IF THE SUN DON'T SHINE

MACK DAVID

The sun contains a ray they label Vitamin D
If you like Vitamin D it's quite all right with me
But I am here to say that I like Vitamin Love
But I can't get Vitamin Love with that doggone sun above.

I don't care if the sun don't shine
I get my lovin' in the evenin' time, when I'm with my baby
It's no fun with the sun around
But I get goin' when the sun goes down and I meet my baby
That's when we kiss and kiss and kiss and then we kiss some more
Don't ask how many times we kiss
At a time like this who keeps score
So, I don't care if the sun don't shine
I'll get my lovin' in the evenin' time when I'm with my baby.

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SEPARATE WAYS

RED WEST
RICHARD MAINEGRA

I see a change has come into our lives
It's not the same as it used to be
And it's not too late to realize our mistakes
We're just not right for each other.
Love has slipped away and left us only friends
We almost seem like strangers
All that's left between us are the memories we shared of the times we thought we cared for each other
Now there's nothing left to do but go our separate ways
And pick up all the pieces left behind us
And maybe someday somewhere along the way another love will find us.
Someday when she's older
Maybe she will understand
Why her mom and dad aren't together
The tears that she'll cry
When I have to say goodbye
Will tear at my heart forever
(Repeat chorus).

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SHE THINKS I STILL CARE

DICKEY LEE

Just because I asked a friend about her
Just because I spoke her name somewhere
Just because I rang her number by mistake today
She thinks I still care.

Just because I haunt the same old places
Where the memories of her lingers everywhere
Just because I saw her then went all to pieces
She thinks I still care.

But if she's happy thinking I still need her
Then let that silly notion bring her cheer
But how could she ever be so foolish
And where did she get such an idea.

Just because I haunt the same old places
Where the memory of her lingers everywhere
Just because I saw her then went all to pieces
She thinks I still care
She thinks I still care.

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FAIRYTALE

ANITA POINTER
BONNIE POINTER

I'll pack up all my things and walk away
I don't want to hear another word you have to say
I've been waitin' for so long
I just found out there's somethin' wrong
And there's nothin' will get better if I stay.

There's no need to explain anymore
I tried my best to love you
Now I'm walkin' out the door
You used me, you deceived me
And you never seemed to need me
But I'll bet you won't forget me when I go.

Seems I've been lost in a dream
Pretending that you care
But now I've opened up my eyes
And found it's all been just a great big fairytale
I've been lovin' you so long
Don't think I'd even know how to forget you
But now the way that things have been
I think I'm better off alone than to be with you.

There's no need to explain anymore
I tried my best to love you
Now I'm walkin' out the door
You used me, you deceived me
And you never seemed to need me
But I'll bet you won't forget me when I go.

Seems I've been lost in a dream
Pretending you were mine
Some day you'll open up your eyes
And realize that a good woman's hard to find.

Yes I've been lost in a dream
Pretending that you care
But now I've opened up my eyes
And found it's all been just a great big fairytale
I've been lovin' you so long
Don't think I'd even know how to forget you
But now the way that things have been
I think I'm better off alone than to be with you.

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8 TRACK TAPE - APS1-1675 $6.98
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ELVIS PRESLEY - LSP-1515e ALBUM $5.50
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8 TRACK TAPE - P8S-1169 $6.98
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ELVIS PRESLEY - CAS-2440 ALBUM $2.98
Almost In Love; Long Legged Girl; Edge Of Reality; My Little Friend; A Little Less Conversation; Rubberneckin'; Clean Up Your Own Back Yard; U.S. Male; Charro; Stay Away.
8 TRACK TAPE - C8S-0381 $3.98
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ELVIS PRESLEY - ACL-7007 ALBUM $2.98
Frankie And Johnny; Come Along; What Every Woman Lives For; Hard Luck; Please Don't Stop Loving Me; Down By The Riverside And When The Saints Go Marching In; Petunia, The Gardener's Daughter; Beginner's Luck; Shout It Out.
8 TRACK TAPE - C8S-7007 $3.98
CASSETTE - CK-7007 $3.98

ELVIS PRESLEY - CAS-2595 ALBUM $2.98
Burning Love; Tender Feeling; Am I Ready; Tonight Is So Right For Love; Guadalajara; It's A Matter Of Time; No More; Santa Lucia; We'll Be Together; I Love Only One Girl.
8 TRACK TAPE - C8S-1216 $3.98
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ELVIS PRESLEY - VPSX-6089 ALBUM $7.50
ALOHA FROM HAWAII - 2 RECORD SET
Recorded Live at the Honolulu International Center. 1973 - See See Rider; Burning Love; Something; You Gave Me a Mountain; Steamroller Blues; My Way; Love Me; Johnny B. Goode; It's Over; Blue Suede Shoes; I'm So Lonesome I Could Cry; I Can't Stop Loving You; Hound Dog; What Now My Love; Fever; Welcome to My World; Suspicious Minds; I'll Remember You; American Trilogy; Big Hunk of Love; Can't Help Falling In Love; Long Tall Sally; Whole Lotta Shakin' Goin' On.
8 TRACK TAPE - P8S-5144 $8.00
CASSETTE - PK-5144 $8.00

ELVIS PRESLEY - CPL1-0341 ALBUM $5.50
That's All Right; I Love You Because; Heartbreak Hotel; Don't Be Cruel; Love Me; Trying To Get To You; Love Me Tender; Peace In The Valley; Elvis Interview from 1958; A Fool Such As I; Tonight's All Right For Love; Are You Lonesome Tonight; Can't Help Falling In Love.
8 TRACK TAPE - CPS1-0341 $6.98
CASSETTE - CPK1-0341 $6.98

ELVIS PRESLEY - CPL1-1349 ALBUM $5.50
Harbor Lights; Interview; I Want You, I Need You, I Love You; Blue Suede Shoes; Blue Christmas; Jailhouse Rock; It's Now or Never; Cane and a High Starched Collar; Presentation of Awards to Elvis; Blue Hawaii; Such a Night; Baby What You Want Me to Do; How Great Thou Art; If I Can Dream.
8 TRACK TAPE - CPS1-1349 $6.98
CASSETTE - CPK1-1349 $6.98

ELVIS PRESLEY - LSP-4776 ALBUM $5.50
Theme From 2001: A Space Odyssey; That's All Right; Proud Mary; Never Been To Spain; You Don't Have To Say You Love Me; You've Lost That Lovin' Feelin'; Polk Salad Annie; Love Me; All Shook Up; Heartbreak Hotel; Teddy Bear; Don't Be Cruel; Love Me Tender; The Impossible Dream; Introductions By Elvis; Hound Dog; Suspicious Minds; For The Good Times; American Trilogy; Funny How Time Slips Away; I Can't Stop Loving You; Can't Help Falling In Love.
8 TRACK TAPE - P8S-2054 $6.98
CASSETTE - PK-2054 $6.98

ELVIS PRESLEY - APL1-1506 ALBUM $5.50
Hurt; Never Again; Blue Eyes Crying In The Rain; Danny Boy; The Last Farewell; For The Heart; Bitter They Are, Harder They Fall; Solitaire; Love Coming Down; I'll Never Fall In Love Again.
8 TRACK TAPE - APS-1-1506 $6.98
CASSETTE - APK1-1506 $6.98

ELVIS PRESLEY - APL1-2274 ALBUM $5.50
Welcome To My World; Help Me Make It Through The Night; Release Me; I Really Don't Want To Know; For The Good Times; Make The World Go Away; Gentle On My Mind; I'm So Lonesome I Could Cry; Your Cheatin' Heart; I Can't Stop Loving You.
8 TRACK TAPE - APS1-2274 $6.98
CASSETTE - APK1-2274 $6.98

ELVIS PRESLEY - CAS-2533 ALBUM $2.98
I Got Lucky; What A Wonderful Life; I Need Somebody To Lean On; Yoga Is As Yoga Does; Riding The Rainbow; Fools Fall In Love; The Love Machine; Home Is Where The Heart Is; You Gotta Stop; If You Think I Don't Need You.
8 TRACK TAPE - C8S-7014 $3.98
CASSETTE - CK-7014 $3.98

ELVIS PRESLEY - CAS-2472 ALBUM $2.98
You'll Never Walk Alone; Who Am I?; Let Us Pray; Peace In The Valley; We Call On Him; I Believe; It Is No Secret; Sing You Children; Take My Hand, Precious Lord.
8 TRACK TAPE - C8S-7012 $3.98
CASSETTE - CK-7012 $3.98

ELVIS PRESLEY - LSP-4460 ALBUM $5.50
Snowbird; Little Cabin on the Hill; Whole Lot-ta Shakin' Goin' On; It's Your Baby, You Rock It; The Fool; Faded Love; I Washed My Hands In Muddy Waters; Tomorrow Never Comes; I Really Don't Want to Know; There Goes My Everything; Funny How Time Slips Away; Make the World Go Away.
8 TRACK TAPE - P8S-1655 $6.98
CASSETTE - PK-1655 $6.98

ELVIS PRESLEY - DL2-5001 ALBUM $4.98
Burning Love; I'll Be There; Fools Fall In Love; Follow That Dream; You'll Never Walk Alone; Flaming Star; Yellow Rose Of Texas; Old Shep; Mama; Rubberneckin'; U.S. Male; Frankie And Johnny; If You Think I Don't Need You; Easy Come, Easy Go; Separate Ways; Peace In The Valley; Big Boss Man; It's A Matter Of Time.
8 TRACK TAPE - D82-5001 $5.98

ELVIS PRESLEY - LSP-3758 ALBUM $5.50
How Great Thou Art; In the Garden; Somebody Bigger Than You and I; Farther Along; Stand by Me; Without Him; So High; Where Could I Go But to the Lord; By and By; If the Lord Wasn't Walking by My Side; Run On; Where No One Stands Alone; Crying in the Chapel.
8 TRACK TAPE - P8S-1218 $6.98
CASSETTE - PK-1218 $6.98

ELVIS PRESLEY - LPM-4088 ALBUM $5.50
Trouble; Guitar Man; Lawdy Miss Clawdy; Baby, What You Want Me to Do; Medley: Heartbreak Hotel, Hound Dog, All Shook Up; Can't Help Falling in Love; Jailhouse Rock; Love Me Tender; Where Could I Go but to the Lord; Up Above My Head; Saved; Blue Christmas; One Night; Memories; Medley: Nothingville, Big Boss Man, Guitar Man, Little Egypt, Trouble, Guitar Man; If I Can Dream.
8 TRACK TAPEP8S-1391 $6.98
CASSETTE - PK-1391 $6.98

ELVIS PRESLEY - CAS-2611 ALBUM $2.98
Separate Ways; Sentimental Me; In My Way; I Met Her Today; What Now, What Next; Where To?; Always On My Mind; I Slipped, I Stumbled, I Fell; Is It So Strange; Forget Me Never; Old Shep.
8 TRACK TAPE - C8S-1227 $3.98
CASSETTE - CK-1227 $3.98

ELVIS PRESLEY - CAS-2567 ALBUM $2.98
Old MacDonald; Guitar Man; Big Boss Man; Frankie And Johnny; You Don't Know Me; Confidence; How Would You Like To Be; They Remind Me Too Much Of You; Long Legged Girl; Down By The Riverside; When The Saints Go Marching In.
8 TRACK TAPE - C8S-0380 $3.98
CASSETTE - CK-0380 $3.98

ELVIS PRESLEY - LSP-3450 ALBUM $5.50
Your Cheatin' Heart; Summer Kisses, Winter Tears; Finders Keepers, Losers Weepers; Memphis, Tennessee; For the Millionth and the Last Time; Santa Lucia; I Met Her Today; In My Way; Forget Me Never; Tomorrow Night; Sound Advice; When It Rains, It Really Pours.
8 TRACK TAPE P8S-1078 $6.98
CASSETTE - PK-1078 $6.98

ELVIS PRESLEY - LSP-2765 ALBUM $5.50
It's Now or Never; Stuck On You; Fame And Fortune; I Gotta Know; Surrender; I Feel So Bad; Are You Lonesome To-Night?; His Latest Flame; Little Sister; Good Luck Charm; Anything That's Part Of You; She's Not You.
8 TRACK TAPE - P8S-1057 $6.98
CASSETTE - PK-1057 $6.98

ELVIS PRESLEY - APL1-2560 ALBUM $5.50
Stop, Look and Listen; Adam and Evil; All That I Am; Never Say Yes; Am I Ready; Beach Shack; Spinout; Smorgasbord; I'll Be Back; Tomorrow Is a Long Time; Down in the Alley; I'll Remember You.
8 TRACK TAPE - APS1-2560 $6.98
CASSETTE - APK1-2560 $6.98

ELVIS PRESLEY - AFL1-2428 ALBUM $5.50
MOODY BLUE HIS LAST ALBUM
Unchained Melody; If You Love Me; Little Darlin'; He'll Have To Go; Let Me Be There; Way Down; Pledging My Love; Moody Blue; She Thinks I Still Care; It's Easy For You.
8 TRACK TAPE - AFS1-2428 $6.98
CASSETTE - AFK1-2428 $6.98

ELVIS PRESLEY - LSP-4690 ALBUM $5.50
He Touched Me; I've Got Confidence; Amazing Grace; Seeing Is Believing; He Is My Everything; Bosom Of Abraham; An Evening Prayer; Lead Me, Guide Me; There Is No God But God; A Thing Called Love; I, John; Reach Out To Jesus.
8 TRACK TAPE - P8S-1923 $6.98
CASSETTE - PK-1923 $6.98

ELVIS PRESLEY - ANL1-1319 ALBUM $3.98
His Hand In Mine; I'm Gonna Walk Dem Golden Stairs; In My Father's House; Milky White Way; I Believe In The Man In The Sky; Joshua Fit The Battle; He Knows Just What I Need; Swing Down Sweet Chariot; Mansion Over The Hilltop; If We Never Meet Again; Working On The Building; Known Only To Him.
8 TRACK TAPE - ANS1-1319 $4.98

ELVIS PRESLEY - CAS-2518 ALBUM $2.98
C'mon Everybody; A Whistling Tune; Angel; Follow That Dream; Easy Come, Easy Go; Today, Tomorrow and Forever; I'm Not The Marrying Kind; King Of The Whole Wide World; This Is Living; I'll Take Love.
8 TRACK TAPE - C8S-7013 $3.98
CASSETTE - CK-7013 $3.98

THE MAN WHO CHANGED THE WORLD OF MUSIC

(continued from page 8)

mother died August 14, 1958, while Elvis was serving in the Army in Texas. Mrs. Presley also died of a heart attack.

A nobody - with - a - somebody destiny, Elvis was working as a truck driver, after graduating from Memphis' Humes High School, when he walked into Sam and Judd Phillips' office at Sun Records in 1953.

He paid $2 to have a recording made for his mother — "a personal thing."

"It sounded like somebody beating on a bucket lid," he later recalled, "but that same company called me a year later and said, 'We got a song you might be able to do.' It was 12 o'clock, and they said, 'Can you be here by 3 o'clock?' I was there by the time they hung up the phone!"

Countless millions of records later, that proved to be the greatest phone call in Elvis Presley's life.

His first love — gospel music — was among the ingredients that he drew upon in the 1950s, when he fused many sounds into rock 'n' roll. His merger of country / western, gospel, and rhythm and blues served as the backbone for what would become a revolutionized pop music.

It started with "Blue Moon of Kentucky," "Hound Dog," "Heartbreak Hotel," and "Blue Suede Shoes." He was an instant star. And his fascinating version of "Let Me Be There" was a pop - flavored gospel song.

He went from driving a truck to driving the girls crazy — and his career ended with more than 30 gold (million - selling) records. He kept RCA on the map, but good, after they bought his recording contract from Sun.

"At about two years of age, I found myself singing," Elvis unloaded not long ago to filmmakers Pierre Adidge and Robert Abel, who released the last Presley MGM movie, *Elvis On Tour*.

"I was singing, and people would listen to me around the housing project where I lived."

Elvis told them about two talent contests he entered, and his shyness.

"I was never popular in school," he said, later explaining how music changed his status. "I would sing in church with my mother and father, but when I was about 10 years old, they gave me a choice between a guitar and a bicycle, so I took the guitar — and I watched people — and I learned to play it a little bit.

"My daddy had seen a lot of people who played guitars and stuff and didn't work, so he said, 'You should make up your mind either about being an electrician or playing a guitar. I never saw a guitar player that was worth a damn.' "

He reminisced about being entered in talent shows when he was eight years old — and then when he was in the 11th grade.

"I came on stage (and) heard people kind of rumbling and whispering and so forth 'cause nobody knew I even sang," he told the filmmakers.

Sergeant Presley points proudly to his stripes in February of 1960, after being promoted to the rank in the U.S. 3rd Armored Division's 32nd Armor, where he was a recon scout.

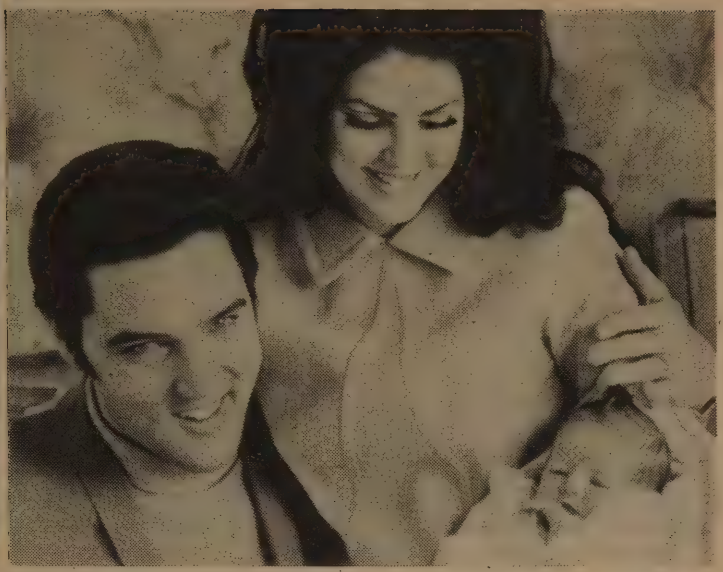
Elvis — then a 21 - year - old former Memphis truck driver — makes a record in Los Angeles for RCA at the beginning of his fantastic career. He parlayed a $2 trip to Sun's Recording Studio, where he met Sam Phillips and his brother Judd, to a multi - million - dollar entertainment empire.

First there were singing roles in the flickers. Then came the dramatic parts. Here is our boy, Elvis, in a fight scene. Note his assailant, at the left, with a large knife. You can bet Elvis won the final round.

In this studio publicity photo, Elvis and Quentin Dean, a pretty teenager, rehearse a bedroom scene in "Stay Away, Joe."

Elvis may not have driven his own automobiles, but on the set of MGM's "Speedway," where he was the star, he got behind the wheel — and won the charms of his leading lady in the last frames.

A nobody-with-a-somebody destiny, Elvis Presley went from driving a truck to driving girls crazy — and ended a career with more than 250 million record sales.



Elvis appeared happiest when — as a family group — he shared moments of leisure with then wife, Priscilla, and daughter, Lisa Marie. Neither young lady has financial problems — thanks to Presley — although he divorced Priscilla in 1973.

"It was amazing how popular I became in school after that."

On the way to a permanent niche in history, the real story of Elvis' beginnings and rise were obscure. That is, until he talked with Adidge and Abel.

"Every time Elvis walked on stage, he was acting out a childhood fantasy," said Adidge, who, with his partner, made the movie about the man, his life, and his music.

"He told us that as a child, he always yearned to grow up to be someone important.

During the peak of his dynamic career, the King of rock 'n' roll starred in his own "Elvis" specials. This is how he appeared on the first one, televised over the National Broadcasting Co., after many months of seclusion. The public couldn't get enough of Elvis — a legend at the age when most young people were trying to determine what to do with their lives.

"He remembered going to concerts at an auditorium where he later presented his first show — and how he was fascinated by the big bands and especially the conductors.

"He remembered, 'I watched the conductor, listened to the music for hours by myself. I was fascinated by the fact that these guys could play for hours, you know, and most of the time the conductor wouldn't even look at his sheet. He just knew everything going on.'

"Elvis told us that as a teenager, he had Mario Lanza and Metropolitan Opera records. And, of course, there was the country / western and the black influence which he got from the radio as a child."

The filmmaker noted that these diverse styles not only produced the sound that upset the 1950s and set the stage for generations to come, but remained a driving influence as Elvis put a show together.

"He assembled all his favorite sounds on stage," Abel said. "Vocally, he'd be backed by black women and a top gospel group.

"He'd get the finest guitarists behind him, plus a large orchestra. He had everything on one stage that delighted him as a kid.

"And best of all, he grew up to be just what he wanted — the 'leader of a big ole band.' "

Before he knew it, his daddy — Vernon Presley — had found a guitar player "worth a damn."

Shortly after Elvis cut his first record for Sam Phillips' Sun label, promoter Bob Neal entered the picture and booked the young singer on the bill with Faron Young, Hank Snow, and other members of the Grand Ole Opry.

Tom Parker — a tall, ex-carnival pitchman, known as "The Colonel" — soon sensed the smoldering possibility that he could make a star out of the kid who performed with slicked - back hair, sideburns, and a perpetual sneer.

Once, on an Alabama tour, the cane - carrying Colonel heard women scream, jump, and holler when Elvis gyrated about the stage in a skintight outfit. He bought the contract, and with a handshake sealed a lifetime bond with Elvis.

Presley made his famous appearances on the Ed Sullivan show, and The Colonel — the silent genius behind the throne — Barnumed Elvis into one of the greatest moneymaking stars in Hollywood and record - world history.

And for a time there, The Colonel had a standing order with Elvis' personal barber, Larry Geller, for 100 hairs a week from Elvis' head.

Parker — never one to let any grass grow under his feet or any unnecessary hair grow on Elvis' head — sold these freshly scissored strands to Presley fans for 25 cents apiece.

This $25 extra income a week was presumably in addition to the $5 million a year Presley was making at the time.

It was but another way Colonel Tom Parker had of drawing attention to the future superstar. Soon Parker divested himself of all other interests and devoted himself to advancing his boy. From a "boy with millions of dollars' worth of talent, he became a boy with millions," The Colonel once said.

From Jan. 10, 1956, when he entered RCA's Nashville studio and recorded "Heartbreak Hotel," the rest is history.

A King was born.

He once asked his mother: "Momma, you think ahm vulgah on the stage?"

Elvis said his mother replied: "You're not vulgah, but you're puttin' too much into your singin'. Keep that up, you won't live to be 30."

In the 1960s, Presley's career continued to C-L-I-M-B, with Parker pushing his boy before the Hollywood cameras as Uncle Sam breathed closer and closer.

In fact, Parker made tons of hay while the Presley sun shined.

Then a two-year Army tour sent Elvis

to Germany, where he met Priscilla Beaulieu, the daughter of an Air Force colonel.

In 1967 they married, and later had a daughter, Lisa Marie.

Although details of their private life remained sketchy, through his deliberate design, fan magazines were full of reports of marital difficulties, and the couple separated in February 1973. They were divorced in Santa Monica, Calif., in 1973.

She termed her life with Elvis an empty luxury, filled with comfort but not companionship.

Elvis — a shy person who rarely granted interviews — always seemed reluctant to talk about himself, thus placing him in a category with Howard Hughes and Garbo.

He was not "in" with the Hollywood crowd, didn't go to the discotheques, and attended only one premiere anyone can remember: *The Bible.*

One day The Colonel was asked what the film, *Harum Scarum,* was about.

"I don't read the scripts," he retorted.

"There's not much I can do to help if the studios don't come up with a good script. We leave the problem of making pictures up to the producers.

"Our contract calls for Elvis to be on the set on time. He always is. We get our share of the money, give the government its part, and I'll tell you one thing: We never had it so good.

"That's the way Elvis and I make pictures."

Yes, that's the way they made a fortune — $1,000,000 a picture, plus a percentage of the box office.

In Hollywood — long before he married — Elvis dated several of his leading ladies, including Ann - Margret and Jocelyn Lane, the English actress.

Before them, it was Juliet Prowse. He dined them at the house he leased in Hollywood. Elvis never trotted in the nightclub circuit.

"I enjoy the private life," he explained.

His dinner parties were attended by those whose names were never seen in the headlines. And just as soon as the movie was completed, he hurried back to Memphis and his beloved Graceland mansion, named for his dear mother.

"Memphis is home to me," he said after one of his filmings, *Double Trouble.*

"I feel I belong there."

He hesitated, and added, "But we fly now."

In the old days, he and the boys would take a caravan of cars back to Memphis. That was kid stuff. Elvis wasn't a kid after Priscilla entered his life.

Although Presley didn't drive a car, he occasionally made headlines by giving away expensive automobiles — and he owned a stable of Cadillacs and vintage models parked in a huge garage to the left rear of the graceland mansion.

However, he occasionally delighted the fans who crowded around his Graceland gates by zooming through their ranks on a motorcycle or three - wheeled vehicle powered by a Volkswagen engine.

In September of 1973, he went into Schilling Lincoln Mercury in Memphis, and bought five Continental Mark IV's from Raymond Surber, a car salesman. It was a $60,000 sale.

But with all his cars and other gadgets — and all his huge contributions to charities — some of those who knew him best did not believe he ever really found happiness.

Not long ago, Presley bought a 707 jet and named it 'Lisa Marie' for his daughter. She was the pride of his life.

For him to enjoy a day at a carnival with her, Elvis had to rent the whole show ... or the entire circus. But — like a King — he sacrificed some things ordinary people take for granted.

He could never walk down a street, visit the parks, go to the corner drugstore, or drop by the Dairy Queen for a shake.

He retired behind the walls of Graceland, seeking some semblance of a contented life. That's where he lived his last conscious moment — in a home he bought and decorated for his dear mother.

The king is dead.

And a memorial fund has been started in Tupelo.

It will be used for the creation and maintenance of a permanent memorial.

It has already received a good start. The thousands who are going to pass through the little two-room house are paying 25 cents each.

A picture of Elvis, draped in black, made up the final page of a special tabloid put out by the local paper there. Its caption read:

"The King is dead. Long Live the King."

There will never be another Elvis Presley. His music will live forever and ever.

It's August 16, 1977 — the night of Elvis' death, and fans stand in disbelief as the huge iron gates stand open to the grounds of the Graceland mansion.

The day Elvis died, newspapers became collectors' items. And thousands of stunned fans could hardly believe their eyes as they read details of the superstar's passing.

Elvis was born in this two-room frame house in Tupelo, Miss., in 1935. The home — recently restored — is part of the city's park program, which includes a nearby Presley Recreational Center.

Graceland was the home of the King — Elvis Presley. The stately mansion, located on Elvis Presley Blvd. in Memphis' suburbs, was bought by Elvis for $100,000 in 1957 from Mrs. Ruth Brown Moore. He redecorated the two-story home and had additions built.

Here is a chronology of highlights in the life of Elvis Presley:

* Born in a small, frame house in Tupelo, Miss., on January 8, 1935.

* At the age of 13, he chose a guitar instead of a bicycle — and began to teach himself to play.

* In 1949, he moved to Memphis; a quiet, rather shy youth.

* In July of 1954 — at the age of 19 — he recorded bluegrass standard, "Blue Moon of Kentucky," for Sun label; Memphis deejays discover the song.

*Billboard's annual poll of disc jockeys for 1954 voted him to the 10 Most Promising Artists list; hires a manager, and joins the "Louisiana Hayride" radio show.

*Taken over by Colonel Tom Parker, he appeared on Ed Sullivan show — but only from the waist up because of TV censors (1956). He also has his first million - selling record, "Heartbreak Hotel," and makes his first movie, *Love Me Tender.*

*In 1957 — after his career expanded into movies and his face became as famous as his voice — he bought a white-columned brick mansion in Memphis, "Graceland," and 13.8 acres of land for $100,000.

*In 1958, Elvis was drafted by the Army for induction on Feb. 23. His mother, Gladys Smith Presley, died August 14. Elvis was sent to Germany and began eight - year courtship of Priscilla Ann Beaulieu.

*In 1960, he was discharged from the service and resumed his career — turning out hit after hit.

*Seven years later — 1967 — he married Priscilla in Las Vegas, after a fling with many of Hollywood's most attractive actresses, including his co-stars.

* In 1968, Elvis and Priscilla Presley had a daughter — Lisa Marie — born February 1. She became the joy of his life.

*In 1973, Elvis and Priscilla are divorced. Her married life, Mrs. Presley said in an interview in *Ladies Home Journal,* was a series of separations caused by Elvis' professional commitments. "For Elvis to come home from a trip and leave again was routine," she said. "Sure I was disappointed, but I got over it."

* In 1976, while on a two-week vacation in Denver, he purchased nine luxury cars as gifts — three for policemen and one for a doctor.

* August 16, 1977, Elvis died at Graceland, his suburban Memphis mansion.

* Today, the entertainer who put 'roll' in rock 'n' roll lies buried near his mother in the Meditation Gardens, on the Graceland estate. Visitors are admitted to the graves -in groups of 25 — 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily, except Mondays.

Elvis is seen through the years of his fast-rising and long musical career. From left, he is shown in 1957; in the mid-'60s, second from left; in 1971, at second from right; and in 1977 at a performance. He died August 16, 1977, in Memphis at the age of 42.

Felton Jarvis Remembers Elvis

By Stacy Harris

With the sudden and untimely death of Elvis Presley, the rumor mill was activated almost from the beginning. In order that Elvis' fans might get an informed perspective on The King, CSR went to Presley's longtime friend and record producer, Felton Jarvis. From the offices of RCA Records on Music Row, Jarvis talked about his close associate.

Felton began by denying any knowledge of Elvis' alleged premonition that he wouldn't live to be 50. (So widespread is this premonition rumor that it is even alluded to in Merle Haggard's "From Graceland to the Promised Land.") "I think that's a bunch of junk," Jarvis insists, debunking what he believes to be among the most circulated misinformation about Elvis. "I think all of us have made that statement ... and all that is is a wish that we'll live to be 150. I mean, all of us have made those kind of statements. I don't think he had any premonitions that he was going to die. I know he didn't make that statement on a recurring basis, because I was around him all the time."

Indeed, Felton and Elvis were inseparable from the day they met in 1965 until the day Presley died. Elvis was, of course, produced by Sam Phillips during the legendary Sun Records days and, when Presley signed with RCA, his first studio work was overseen by Steve Sholes and Chet Atkins. Then, as Felton recalls, "In 1965 I had just come to work here at RCA and Chet said '...Elvis is coming into record and I'm going to carry you over to the session. You two are about the same age,' and he said, 'I don't like staying up all night, and Elvis likes to record all night long.' So that's how the relationship began."

Actually, Felton had more going for him than his age and a willingness to work the graveyard shift. Jarvis had come to RCA, having successfully produced records on acts such as Gladys Knight and the Pips, Lloyd Price, Tommy Roe, and Fats Domino. Then, from 1965 until 1970 when he became an independent producer, Jarvis produced about 20 acts in addition to Elvis, including Nat Stuckey, Skeeter Davis, Floyd Cramer, Jimmy Dean, and Jim Ed Brown.

Gradually it became apparent to Felton that he was spreading himself too thin. A victim of kidney disease, Jarvis was hampered by constant, time-consuming dialysis coupled with his exhaustive travel schedule (Felton always went on the road with Elvis) and artist roster. Problems would crop up when an artist wanted to go into the studio only to find that Jarvis was out of town. Felton saw only one solution and, at Elvis' suggestion, became an independent producer — one who would supervise Presley exclusively.

With his change in direction, Jarvis explains, "I was kind of a liaison between Elvis, the band, the voices, and the sound people. In other words, Elvis would come in and do the show and he'd never see the building, the stage, or anything till he walked out there and the spotlight hit him. So I would go back there and advise him if there were people sitting behind him, what the building looked like, if the audience was a good audience or a bad audience. If he wanted something changed musically, he would tell me and I would get with the band and rehearse the band for him — or the voices. If he wanted more stage monitors — if he couldn't hear on stage or whatever — I would go to the sound people and say, 'Elvis would like so and so' ... He didn't just have to go to each one. He'd just see me, and I could take care of everything that needed taking care of."

In the studio, Felton contends, "Elvis was entirely different from producing any other act. Say, RCA would say, 'Elvis, we want you to record a gospel album.' He would come into the studio and he might sing one gospel song and then do a rock 'n' roll song or a country song. He had to sing what he felt like singing at that very moment that he was recording. He couldn't go in and record 12 gospel songs and go home.

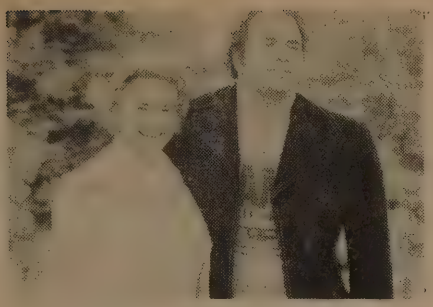
"As I say, he'd just mix it all up ... so he was erratic in the way he recorded ... He would pick all his own material. He would listen to all the songs, and he would learn the songs right there on the session and do it. He was a quick learner. He learned songs fast, and it was very relaxed around his sessions. When he would come in, he'd always go over to each and every guy on the session — the engineer or whoever — and shake their hand and tell them hello, good to see them again, and then he'd sit around and tell a little story about something that happened somewhere."

A favorite story of Presley's concerns the time he and the Jordanaires were preparing to record a movie soundtrack in RCA's Studio B. Jarvis recalls Elvis' saying to the vocal group, 'Y'all sing on the chorus with me,' and the director of the picture said, 'Elvis, I don't think you understand where the song's going to be used in the picture. In this particular scene, you're riding down the highway on a motorcycle, singing this song. If the voices sing along with you, where will *they* be?' And Elvis said, 'the same damn place the band is!' I thought that was a real cute answer."

This no-nonsense aspect of Presley's personality carried over into his concern for Felton. Elvis was extremely worried at Jarvis' atrophy when the battle with kidney disease reduced Jarvis' robust 190-pound frame to a pathetic 115 pounds. "Felton, I want to do something," Elvis emphatically told his proud producer. "I'm watching you die. Do you mind if I call somebody and try to help you?"

Jarvis, deeply touched, relented as Elvis said, "Well, I've

(continued on page 49)



Mae Axton and her son, singer - songwriter Hoyt Axton.

Mae Axton

THE LADY BEHIND HEARTBREAK HOTEL

By Bob Battle

Jack Stapp, Mae Axton, Denny Brewington

Mae Boren Axton — who wrote the lyrics to "Heartbreak Hotel" — recalls Elvis Presley as a long-haired, hungry kid in a beat-up car who wanted to earn enough money for his parents to visit Florida.

"He drove down to Florida in an old car with Scotty Moore and (the late) Bill Black in 1954 to play three shows I was promoting for Col. Tom Parker," said Mrs. Axton, the mother of country music star Hoyt Axton.

She felt so bad that Elvis and his friends were working the date for $50 that she paid for their supper and hotel bill the first night.

"He said he hoped he would make enough money someday to bring his parents down to see Florida," she recalled.

Presley did not even have top billing for the show, she said, but when she heard girls yelling and screaming, she thought he was going to be a success.

And when she found him hanging terrified from a shower head backstage, with 50 excited fans ripping his coat, tie, shoes and socks apart, she was certain.

Through her efforts, she united Elvis and Colonel Parker.

Mrs. Axton — who has since penned more than 100 songs that have made their way into records — said The Colonel was "counting box-office money when I heard all these people screaming.

"I went up to see what it was all about," she said of the Jacksonville, Fla., engagement. "It was Elvis Presley.

"By the time we got to Daytona, the Colonel wanted him."

Celebrity pictures and autographs decorate the walls of Mrs. Axton's office in the Four Star Building overlooking Music Row in Nashville. Among the most treasured are a Hank Snow showbill featuring Elvis as a warm-up act, and a yellowed newspaper clipping from the time she testified before the U.S. Senate on the harmlessness of rock 'n' roll music.

The way Mrs. Axton tells it, she had already promised Presley "that I would write his first million seller" even before singer Tommy Durden showed up at her house in Jacksonville, Fla., one night with a sad newspaper story.

This article was about a man who tore up all his identification — and killed himself, leaving a one-line epitaph, "I walk a lonely street."

Mrs. Axton said, "I told Tommy that everybody has somebody who cares, and when that man's family found out about his death, they would be heartbroken.

"I said, 'Let's put a heartbreak hotel at the end of that lonely street'."

The two sat down to write a song about their feelings.

At that moment, another friend — deejay Glenn Reeves — dropped by, she said. He thought "Heartbreak Hotel" was a silly name for a song, and went off to run an errand.

"Within 22 minutes, we had that song on tape, and we called Elvis and Bob Neal (who was then his manager — before Col. Parker) that same night," she recalled.

She said Reeves made the demo for the song, but still did not want to take claim for writing any of it. Presley was later added as a co-author, she said, and it was not long before he was taking his parents on that trip to Florida.

"When we played the song for Elvis, he just kept saying, 'Hot dog, Mae, play it again'," she said.

Mrs. Axton said that she bumped into Jack Stapp, who was just starting Tree Publishing Co., one night at the Grand Ole Opry, and he asked when she was going to give him a song to publish.

She told him about "Heartbreak Hotel," and although she was later offered more money from a New York publisher, she said she wanted Tree to have the song.

Mrs. Axton and Elvis became friends for life. And his death was a very sad occasion for her.

She also became a close confidante of Priscilla Beaulieu, who later became Elvis' wife. Priscilla and Elvis were divorced in 1973.

"He really saw in her what he saw in his mother," Mrs. Axton said of Priscilla's marriage to the king of rock 'n' roll. "After the baby came, she couldn't cope with being shut up behind a door.

"He loved her until the day he died. Elvis was a one-woman man, and Priscilla was that way, too."

Elvis' mother, Mrs. Gladys Smith Presley, "was the most gentle, deeply religious and kind person you could ever meet," Mrs. Axton recalled.

She said Elvis never got over her death at the age of 42.

This made him even more religious.

"He always had Bibles on his plane," she said. "God gave us Elvis Presley to walk the earth and give joy and excitement to people that they needed in their humdrum lives."

Nine days before his death, Elvis called Mrs. Axton.

"He had been up to his mother's grave, and he had a copy of that new book his ex-bodyguards wrote *(Elvis, What Happened?)*.

"He called me, and he said just three words: 'Mae, it hurts'."

And so another chapter was written in the story of Elvis. But this one apparently disturbed him more than any of the previous ones.

He turned to one of his oldest friends for comfort — a lady who helped start him on his path to the throne.

I JUST CAN'T HELP BELIEVIN'

CYNTHIA WEIL
BARRY MANN

I just can't help believin'
When she smiles up soft and gentle
With a trace of misty morning
And a promise of tomorrow in her eyes
And I just can't help believin'
When she's lying close beside me
And my heart beats with the rhythm of her sighs.
This time the girl is gonna stay
For more than just a day.

I just can't help believin'
When she slips her hand in my hand
And it feels so small and helpless
That my fingers fold around it like a glove
And I just can't help believin'
When she's whisperin' her magic
And her tears are shinin' honey sweet with love,
This time the girl is gonna stay
For more than just a day.

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I'M SO LONESOME I COULD CRY

HANK WILLIAMS

Hear that lonesome whippoorwill
He sounds too blue to fly
The midnight train is whining low
I'm so lonesome I could cry.

I've never seen a night so long
When time goes crawling by
The moon just went behind a cloud
To hide its face and cry.

Did you ever see a robin weep
When leaves began to die
That means he's lost the will to live
I'm so lonesome I could cry.

The silence of a falling star
Lights up a purple sky
And as I wonder where you are
I'm so lonesome I could cry.

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ARE YOU SINCERE

WAYNE WALKER

Are you sincere when you say, "I love you"?
Are you sincere when you say, "I'll be true"?
Do you mean ev'ry word that my ears have heard
I'd like to know which way to go
Will our love grow
Are you sincere
Are you sincere when you say you miss me
Are you sincere ev'ry time you kiss me
And are you really mine ev'ry day, all the time
I'd like to know which way to go
Will our love grow
Are you sincere
Are you sincere?

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I LOVE YOU BECAUSE

LEON PAYNE

I love you because you understand, dear
Ev'ry single thing I try to do
You're always there to lend a helping hand, dear
I love you most of all because you're you
No matter what the world may say about me
I know your love will always see me through
I love you for the way you never doubt me
But most of all I love you 'cause you're you.

I love you because my heart is lighter
Ev'ry time I'm walking by your side
I love you because the future's brighter
The door to happiness you open wide
No matter what may be the style or season
I know your heart will always be true
I love you for a hundred thousand reasons
But most of all I love you 'cause you're you.

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LAWDY MISS CLAWDY

LLOYD PRICE

Oh now Lawdy Lawdy Lawdy Miss Clawdy
Girl, you sure look good to me
Well, please don't excite me baby
Tho it can't be me.

Because I give you all my money
Girl, you just won't treat me right
You like to ball in the morning and don't come back till late at night.

I'm gonna tell, tell my mama
Lawd, I'm gonna tell her what you've been doing to me
I'm gonna tell everybody that I'm down in misery.

Well now Lawdy Lawdy Lawdy Miss Clawdy
Lawd girl you sure look good to me
You just wheeling and rocking baby because you're just as fine, as you can be

Well so bye, bye baby
Girl, I won't be trouble no more
Goodbye Clawdy, oh darling
Down the road I'll go.

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MILK COW BLUES

KOKOMO ARNOLD

Hollering good mornin'
I said, "Blues, how do you do?"
I said, "Blues, blues, how do you do?
You're mighty early this mornin'
And I can't get along with you."
How can I do right, baby,
When you won't do right yourself?
How can I do right, baby,
When you won't do right yourself?
If my good gal quits me
Lord, I don't want nobody else
Well, I woke up this mornin'
Looked out my door
And I know my milk cow by the way she lows
If you see my milk cow
Please drive her home
I ain't had no milk and butter
Since that cow's been gone
My blues fell this mornin'
And my love came fallin' down
Well, my blues fell this mornin'
And my love came fallin' down
I may be a low down dog, mama
But please don't dog me 'round
It takes a rockin' chair to rock
A rubber ball to roll
Takes a long tall sweet gal to satisfy my soul
Lord, I don't feel welcome
No place I go
Well, the woman I love
Has done drove me from her door.

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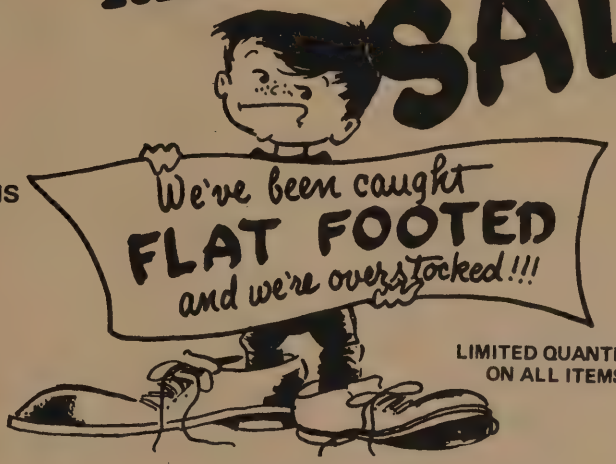

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MY BOY

BILL MARTIN
PHIL COULTER
CLAUDE FRANCOIS
JEAN-PIERRE BOURTAYRE

You're sleeping son, I know, but really this can't wait
I wanted to explain, before it gets too late
For your mother and me, love has finally died
This is no happy home, but God knows how I've tried.

Because you're all I have, my boy
You are my life, my pride, my joy
And if I stay, I stay because of you my boy.

I know it's hard to understand why did we ever start
We're more like strangers now, each acting out a part
I have laughed, I have cried, I have lost ev'ry game
Taken all I can take, but I'll stay just the same.

Because you're all I have, my boy
You are my life, my pride, my joy
And if I stay, I stay because of you my boy.

Sleep on, you haven't heard a word, perhaps it's just as well
Why spoil your little dreams, why put you through the hell
Life is no fairy tale as one day you will know
But now you're just a child
I'll stay here and watch you grow.

Because you're all I have, my boy
You are my life, my pride, my joy
And if I stay, I stay because of you my boy.

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SILVER BELLS

JAY LIVINGSTON
RAY EVANS

Christmas makes you feel emotional
It may bring parties or thoughts devotional
Whatever happens or what may be
Here is what Christmas time means to me.

City sidewalks, busy sidewalks dressed in holiday style
In the air there's a feeling of Christmas
Children laughing, people passing
Meeting smile after smile
And on ev'ry street corner you hear.

Silver bells, silver bells, it's Christmas time in the city
Ring-a-ling, hear them ring
Soon it will be Christmas day.

City street lights, even stop lights, blink a bright red and green
As the shoppers rush home with their treasures
Hear the snow crunch, see the kids bunch
This is Santa's big scene
And above all this bustle you hear.

(Repeat chorus)

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ARE YOU LONESOME TONIGHT?

ROY TURK
LOU HANDMAN

Tonight I'm down-hearted
For tho' we have parted
I love you and I always will
And while I'm so lonely
I'm writing you only
To see if you care for me still.

Are you lonesome tonight
Do you miss me tonight
Are you sorry we drifted apart
Does your memory stray to a bright summer day
When I kissed you and called you sweetheart
Do the chairs in your parlor seem empty and bare
Do you gaze at your doorstep and picture me there
Is your heart filled with pain
Shall I come back again
Tell me, dear, are you lonesome tonight?

I hold with affection
A fond recollection
A romance of days now gone by
And often I wonder
If I made a blunder
By letting you bid me "Goodbye".

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YOUR CHEATIN' HEART

HANK WILLIAMS

Your cheatin' heart will make you weep
You'll cry and cry and try to sleep
But sleep won't come the whole night through
Your cheatin' heart will tell on you
When tears come down like fallin' rain
You'll toss around and call my name
You'll walk the floor the way I do
Your cheatin' heart will tell on you.

Your cheatin' heart will pine some day
And crave the love you threw away
The time will come when you'll be blue
Your cheatin' heart will tell on you
When tears come down like fallin' rain
You'll toss around and call my name
You'll walk the floor the way I do
Your cheatin' heart will tell on you.

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IT'S OVER

JIMMIE RODGERS

If time were not a moving thing and I could make it stay
This hour of love we share would always be
There's be no coming day to shine a morning light
And make us realize our night is over.

When you walk away from me
And there is no place to put my hand
Except to shade my eyes against the sun that rises o'er the land
And I watch you walk away, somehow I have to let you go, now it's over.

If you knew just how I really feel
You might return and yet
There are so many times that people have to love
And then forget
Though there might have been a way
I have to force myself to say it's over.

So I turn my back and turn my collar to the wind
Move along in silence trying not to think at all
I send my feet before me
Walk the silent street before me
It's over.

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GENTLE ON MY MIND

JOHN HARTFORD

It's knowing that your door is always open
And your path is free to walk
That makes me tend to leave my sleeping bag
Rolled up and stashed behind your couch
And it's knowing I'm not shackled by
Forgotten words and bonds and the
Ink stains that have dried upon some line
That keeps you in the backroads
By the rivers of my mem'ry
That keeps you ever gentle on my mind.

It's not clinging to the rocks and ivy
Planted on their columns now that binds me
Or something that somebody said because
They thought we fit together walkin'
It's just knowing that the world will not be
Cursing or forgiving when I walk along
Some railroad track and find that you're
Moving on the backroads by the rivers
Of my mem'ry and for hours
You're just gentle on my mind.

Though the wheat fields and the clothes lines
And junkyards and the highways come between us
And some other woman crying to her mother
'Cause she turned and I was gone
I still run in silence, tears of joy might stain my face
And summer sun might burn me 'til I'm blind
But not to where I cannot see you walkin' on
The backroads by the rivers
Flowing gentle on my mind.

I dip my cup of soup back from the gurglin'
Cracklin' caldron in some train yard
My beard a roughening coal pile and a
Dirty hat pulled low across my face
Through cupped hands 'round a tin can
I pretend I hold you to my breast and find
That you're waving from the backroads by the
Rivers of my mem'ry ever smilin'
Ever gentle on my mind.

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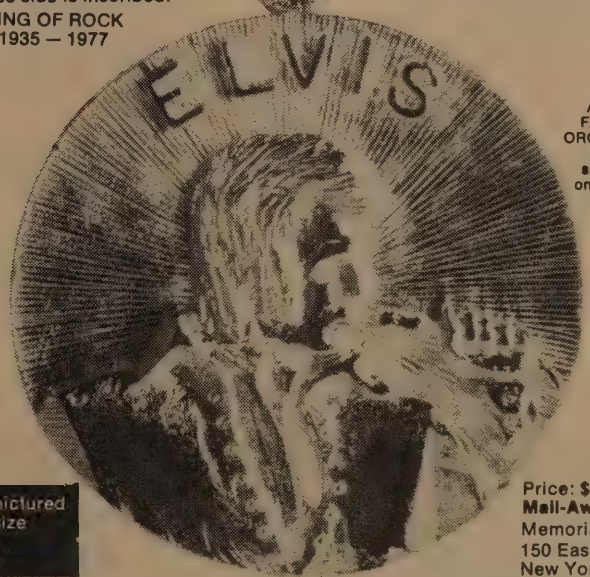
MONEY BACK GUARANTEE

OFFICIAL ELVIS PRESLEY
COMMEMORATIVE MEDALLION

DESIGNED EXCLUSIVELY FOR AND APPROVED BY ELVIS' LIFETIME FRIEND AND MANAGER, COL. TOM PARKER, AND THE ELVIS PRESLEY FAMILY.

The Official Elvis Presley Commemorative Medallion is a loving tribute to the King of Rock for all his loyal fans to wear in remembrance. This SPECIAL EDITION 3-dimensional pendant has been beautifully crafted from solid jewelers' metal and gold finished and hangs from a matching 18" chain. The reverse side is inscribed:

KING OF ROCK
1935 — 1977



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Medallion is pictured twice actual size to show each superb detail.

Price: $10
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MONEY BACK GUARANTEE

____ GOLD FINISHED ELVIS MEMORIAL MEDALLION

Total enclosed (N.Y. res. add tax) $_____

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CITY_____ STATE_____ ZIP_____

T-R-O-U-B-L-E

JERRY CHESNUT

I play an old piano from nine till half past one
Tryin' to make a livin' watchin' ev'rybody else havin' fun
Well, I don't miss much that ever happens on a dance hall floor
Mercy, look what just walked through that door.

Well, hello, T-R-O-U-B-L-E
What in the world you doin' all A-L-O-N-E?
Say, hey, good L-double O-K-I-N-G
I smell T-R-O-U-B-L-E.

I was a little bitty baby when my papa hit the skids
Mama had a time tryin' to raise nine kids
Told me not to stare 'cause it was IM-PO-LITE
And did the best she could try to raise me right.

Hey! But Mama never told me 'bout nothin' like a Y-O-U
Say, your mother musta been another somethin' or the other, too
Hey good L-double O-K-I-N-G
I smell T-R-O-U-B-L-E.

Well, you talk about a woman, I've seen a lotta others
With too much somethin' and not enough of another
You've got it all together like a lovin' machine
Lookin' like glory and walkin' like a dream.

Mother Nature's sure been good to Y-O-U
Well, your mother musta been another good lookin' mother too
Say, hey! Good L-double O-K-I-N-G
I smell T-R-O-U-B-L-E.

Well, you talk about a trouble makin' hunka pokey bait
The men are gonna love, and all the women gonna hate
Remindin' them of everything, they're never gonna be
Maybe the beginnin' of a world war three.

'Cause the world ain't ready for nothing like a Y-O-U
I bet your mother musta been another somethin' or the other too
Say, hey! Good L-double O-K-I-N-G
I smell T-R-O-U-B-L-E.

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GOOD ROCKIN' TONIGHT

ROY BROWN

I heard the news, there's good rockin' tonight
Gonna hold my baby tight as I can
Tonight she'll know I'm a mighty man
I heard the news, there's good rockin' tonight.

Oh, lead me in the alley behind the barn
Don't be afraid, I'll do you no harm
Baby, bring my rockin' shoes 'cause tonight I'm gonna rock away all my blues
Have you heard the news, there's good rockin' tonight.

Well, Elder Brown, Deacon Jones, they've even left their happy home
They'll be there, just you wait and see
A-jumpin' and a-stompin' at the jubilee
Hey, man, there's good rockin' tonight.

Sweet Lorraine, Sioux City Sue, Sweet Georgia Brown, Caldonia, too
They'll be there jumpin' like mad
Hey, sister, ain't you glad
We got the news there's good rockin' tonight.

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MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE

CHUCK BERRY

Long distance imformation, give me Memphis, Tennessee
Help me find the party trying to get in touch with me
She could not leave her number, but I know who placed the call
'Cause my uncle took the message and he wrote it on the wall.

Help me, information, get in touch with my Marie
She's the only one who'd phone me here from Memphis, Tennessee
Her home is on the south side, high up on a ridge
Just a half a mile from the Mississippi Bridge.

Help me information, more than that I cannot add
Only that I miss her and all the fun we had
But we were pulled apart because her Mom did not agree
And tore apart our happy home in Memphis, Tennessee.

Last time I saw Marie, she's waving me goodbye
With hurry home drops on her cheek that trickl'd from her eye
Marie is only six years old, information please
Try to put me through to her in Memphis, Tennessee.

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MOODY BLUE

MARK JAMES

Well, it's hard to be a gambler bettin' on the number that changes ev'ry time
Well you think you're gonna win, think she's givin' in
A stranger's all you find
Yeah, it's hard to figure out what she's all about
That she's a woman through and through.

She's a complicated lady
So color my baby moody blue
Oh moody blue, tell me am I gettin' through
I keep hangin' on try'na learn the song but I never do
Oh moody blue, tell me who I'm talkin' to
You're like night and day and it's hard to say which one is you.

Well, when Monday comes she's Tuesday
When Tuesday comes she's Wednesday, into another day again
Her personality unwinds just like a ball of twine on a spool that never ends
Just when I think I know her well
Her emotions reveal she's not the person that I thought I knew.

(Repeat chorus)

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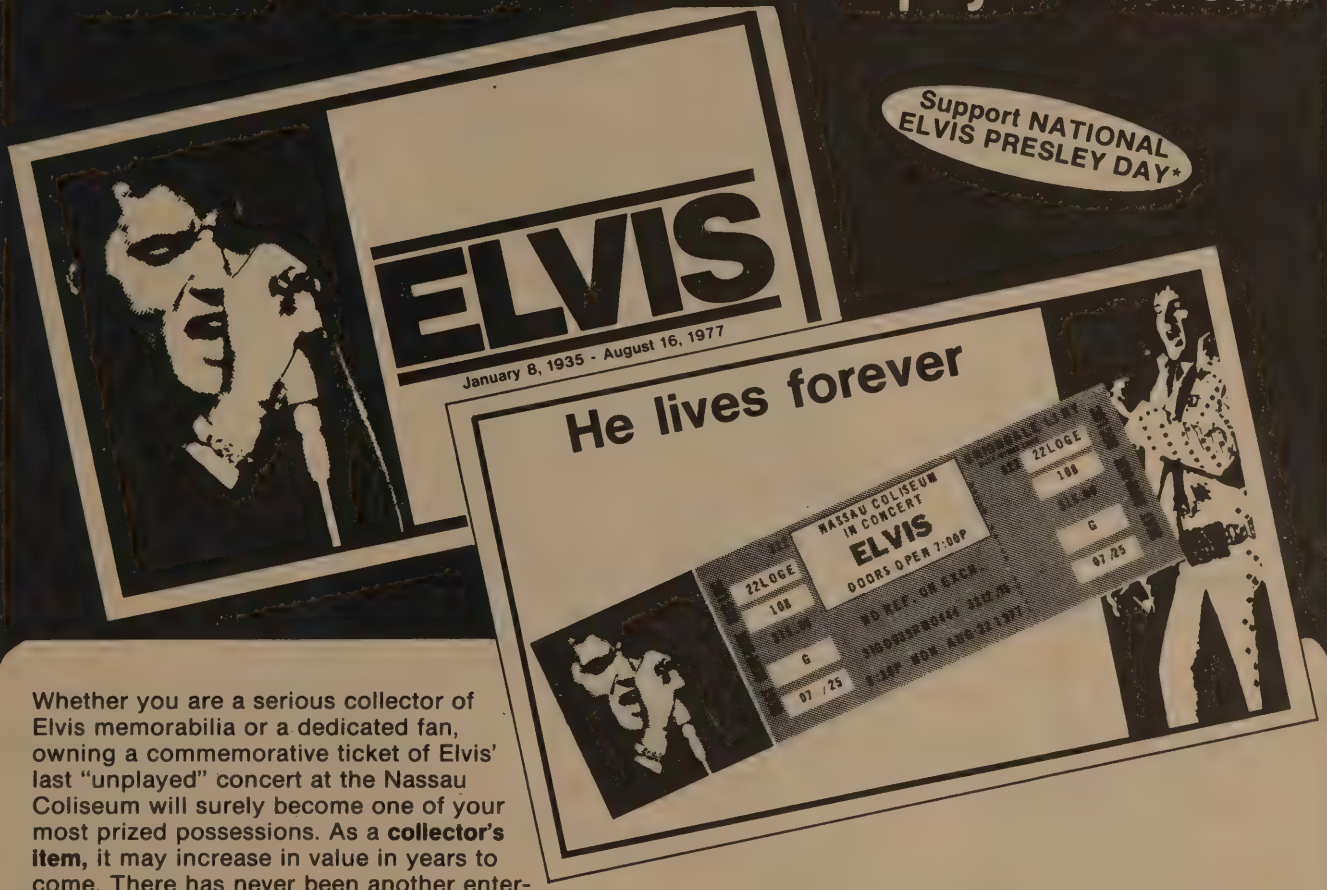
THE "KING" LIVES FOREVER!

Last chance to get "souvenir" tickets of his last "unplayed" concert.

Support NATIONAL ELVIS PRESLEY DAY*



Whether you are a serious collector of Elvis memorabilia or a dedicated fan, owning a commemorative ticket of Elvis' last "unplayed" concert at the Nassau Coliseum will surely become one of your most prized possessions. As a **collector's item,** it may increase in value in years to come. There has never been another entertainer whose music changed the world spanning three decades. Superstar John Lennon said **"An early goal of the Beatles was to knock off Elvis as the king of rock and roll..."** but even the Beatles could not dethrone the king.

He was beyond rock, beyond pop, beyond Hollywood—he was the king for more than twenty years. The king is gone but his memory will live on forever. Now you can own and display an original commemorative ticket of Elvis' last "unplayed" concert of August 22, 1977. Tickets are enclosed in an attractive custom designed folder ready for framing. A souvenir ticket is your valuable keepsake to treasure forever in memory of Elvis.

So hurry, there is a limited number of tickets available, order now and avoid disappointment. Your money will be returned if sold out. **1 ticket—$6.00 2 tickets—$10.00**

FREE BONUS OFFER

FIRST TIME EVER—1000 ONLY—Limited edition Litho Portraits of Elvis on pastel blue—deep textured stock. This **MASTERPIECE** is yours **FREE** when you order four tickets ($20.00). ELVIS' magnificent portrait, a huge 11"x14", lists all 45 gold records in the **"MEMORIAL"** border. Your friends will admire this handsome portrait. Give a holiday gift to someone who loves ELVIS. Comes ready for framing, to cherish forever.

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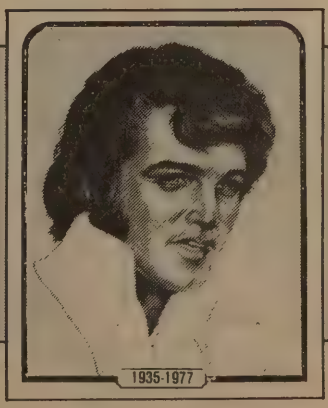

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LOVE LETTERS

EDWARD HEYMAN
VICTOR YOUNG

The sky may be starless the night may be moonless
But deep in my heart there's a glow
For deep in my heart I know that you love me
You love, because you told me so.

Love letters straight from your heart
Keep us so near while apart
I'm not alone in the night
When I can have all the love you write
I memorize ev'ry line
I kiss the name that you sign
And, darling, then I read again right from the start
Love letters straight from your heart.

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HOW'S THE WORLD TREATING YOU

BOUDLEAUX BRYANT
CHET ATKINS

I've had nothing but sorrow
Since you said we were through
There's no hope for tomorrow
How's the world treating you
Ev'ry sweet thing that mattered
Has been broken in two
All my dreams have been shattered
How's the world treating you?

Got no plans for next Sunday
Got no plans for today
Ev'ry day is blue Monday
Ev'ry day you're away
Though our pathways have parted
To your mem'ry I'm true
Guess I'll stay broken - hearted
How's the world treating you?

Do you wonder about me?
Like I'm hoping you do
Are you lonesome without me?
Have you found someone new?
Are you burning and yearning
Do you ever get blue?
Do you think of returning?
How's the world treating you?

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BLUE HAWAII

LEO ROBIN
RALPH RAINGER

Perfume in the air and rare flowers ev'rywhere
And white shadows we could share at Waikiki
A sky full of stars and soft far away guitars
It seems to be only a reverie.

Night and you and blue Hawaii
The night is heavenly
And you are heaven to me
Lovely you and blue Hawaii
With all this loveliness
There should be love.

Come with me while the moon is on the sea
The night is young and so are we
Dreams come true in blue Hawaii
And mine could all come true
This magic night of nights with you.

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I CAN'T STOP LOVING YOU

DON GIBSON

Those happy hours that we once knew
Though long ago, still make me blue
They say that time heals a broken heart
But time has stood still since we've been apart.

I can't stop loving you
So I've made up my mind
To live in memory of old lonesome times
I can't stop wanting you
It's useless to say
So I'll just live my life in dreams of yesterday.

I can't stop loving you
There's no use to try
Pretend there's someone new, I can't live a lie
I can't stop wanting you the way that I do
There's only been one love for me
That one love is you.

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Each **$19.95** Jeweled movement ★ **$29.95** 17-Jeweled movement
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Enclosed find check, money order for amount of $ _____

Name: _____

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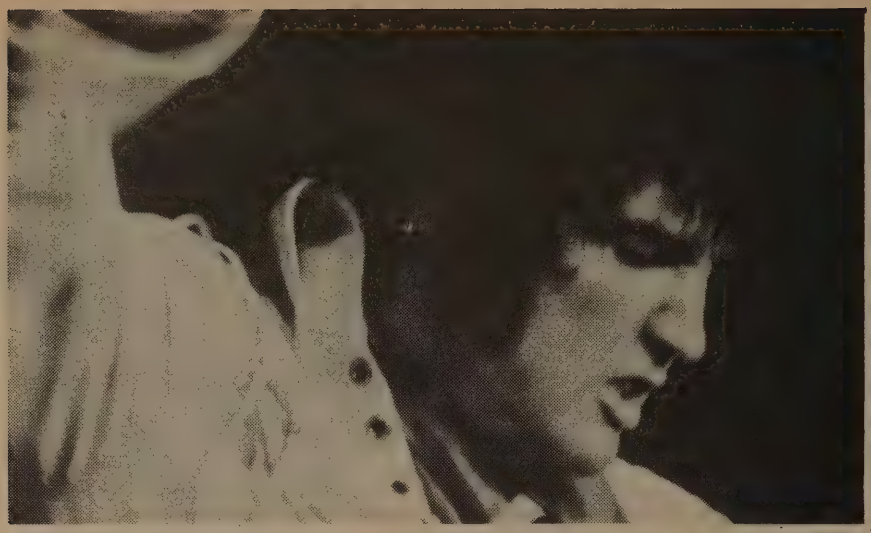

LET IT BE ME
(Je T'appartiens)

MANN CURTIS
PIERRE DELANOE
GILBERT BECAUD

I bless the day I found you
I want to stay around you
And so I beg you
Let it be me
Don't take this heaven from one
If you must cling to someone
Now and forever
Let it be me
Each time we meet, love
I find complete love
Without your sweet love
What would life be?
So never leave me lonely
Tell me you'll love me only
And that you'll always
Let it be me.
If, for each bit of gladness
Someone must taste of sadness
I'll bear the sorrow
Let it be me
No matter what the price is
I'll make the sacrifices
Through each tomorrow
Let it be me
To you I'm praying
Hear what I'm saying
Please let your heart beat
For just me
And never leave me lonely
Tell me you'll love me only
And that you'll always
Let it be me.

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JOHNNY B. GOODE

CHUCK BERRY

Deep down in Lou'siana, close to New Orleans
'Way back up in the woods among the evergreens
There stood an old cabin made of earth and wood
Where lived a country boy named Johnny B. Goode
Who'd never ever learned to read or write so well
But he could play guitar just like a-ringin' a bell.

Go! Go!
Go Johnny go go
Go Johnny go go
Go Johnny go go
Go Johnny go go
Johnny B. Goode.

He used to carry his guitar in a gunny sack
Go sit beneath the tree by the railroad track
Ol' engineer in the train sittin' in the shade
Strummin' with the rhythm that the drivers made
The people passin' by, they would stop and say
Oh my, but that little country boy could play.
(Repeat chorus)

His mother told him, "Some day you will be a man
And you will be the leader of a big old band
Many people comin' from miles around
To hear you play your music till the sun goes down
Maybe some day your name'll be in lights
A-sayin' Johnny B. Goode tonight."
(Repeat chorus)

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MY BABE

WILLIE DIXON

My babe
She don't stand no teasin'
My babe.

Oh yes she don't stand no teasin'
My babe
Oh yes she don't stand no teasin'
She don't stand none of that huggin' and squeezin'
My babe
True little baby is my babe
My babe I know she loves me
My babe
Oh yes I know she loves me
My babe
Oh yes I know she loves me
She don't do nothin' but kiss and hug me
My babe
True little baby is my babe.
My babe
She don't stand no teasin'
My babe
Oh no she don't stand no teasin'
Ev'rything she does, she does so pleasin'
My babe
True little baby is my babe
My babe she don't stand no foolin'
My babe
My babe she don't stand no foolin'
My babe
Oh no she don't stand no foolin'
If she's mad, there ain't no coolin'
My babe
True little baby is my babe.

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IT'S A SIN

FRED ROSE
ZEB TURNER

It's a sin my darlin' how I love you
Because I know our love can never be
It's a sin to keep this mem'ry of you
When silence proves that you've forgotten me
The dream I build for us has tumbled
Each promise broken like my heart
It's a sin my darlin' how I love you
So much in love and yet so far apart.
It's a sin to hide behind this heartache
To make believe that I've found someone new
It's a sin to say that I don't miss you
When people know I'm still in love with you
I'm sure you're happy with another
Who shares the love I couldn't win
Why pretend that I can live without you
When deep inside I know that it's a sin.

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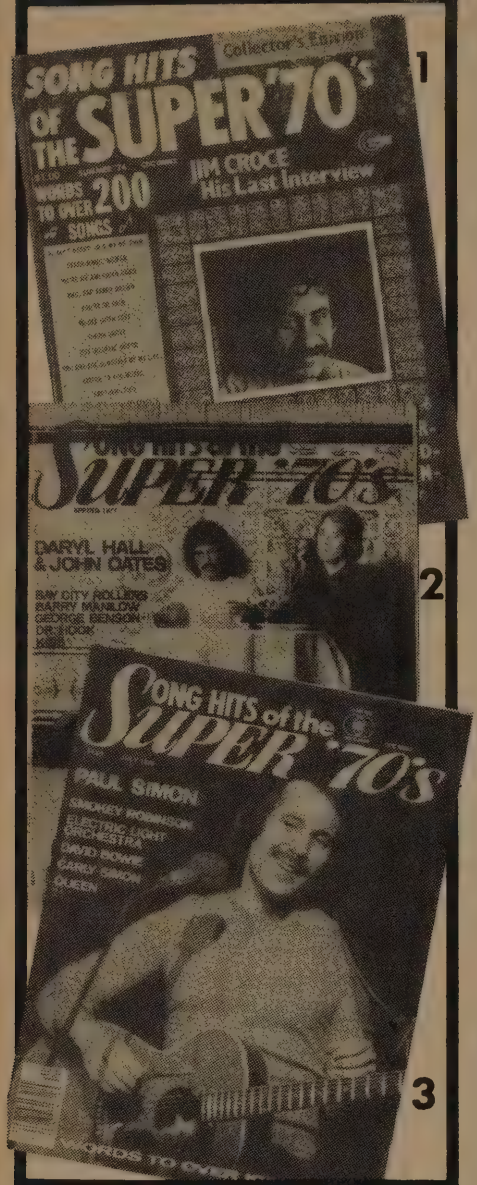
$1.25 each



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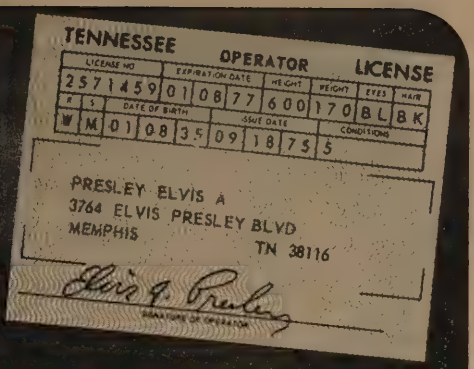
Announcing the most sought after remembrance



FIRST TIME EVER OFFERED!

There have been many remembrances of Elvis, but none can compare with the personal feeling of owning Elvis' authentic commemorative **driver's license.** This facsimile of Elvis' real license is reprinted with special permission, in two colors, front and back. The license lists all of his personal descriptions — height, weight, color of hair and eyes, plus his signature and more.

Quantities are small, so please hurry — order your valuable keepsake today. This exciting remembrance can be yours for only $3.00 for one license or $5.00 for two licenses. Orders will be filled on a first come first serve basis by the postmark stamped on each envelope.

Mail to: ELVIS LICENSE DEPT. ES78
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THE OFFICIAL MEMORIAL SELECTED BY THE PRESLEY FAMILY!

You've seen several Elvis memorials before, but this is the *only one* officially selected by the Presley family. This is the way those nearest and dearest to Elvis want him remembered.

Fine art you'll be proud to display in your home (and, quite possibly, destined like all fine art to appreciate handsomely over the years), the Official Elvis Memorial Portrait is available as a stunning monochrome print lithographed on pebble Bristol board, signed in the plate by the artist, 11"x14", suitable for framing. Or, order the dramatic 8"x6" plaque, with the portrait etched deeply in copper, mounted on a walnut base.

But whichever Official Memorial Portrait you select, please remember that quantities are severely limited, and orders will be filled in strict order of receipt. Therefore, to avoid disappointment, we strongly encourage you to place your order today.

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TOO MUCH MONKEY BUSINESS

CHUCK BERRY

Runnin' to and fro
Hard workin' at the mill
Never fails in the mail
There comes a rotten bill.

Too much monkey bus'ness
Too much monkey bus'ness
Too much monkey bus'ness
For me to be involved in.

Salesman talkin' to me
Try'n' to run me up a creek
Said, "You can buy it, go on, try it
You can pay me next week!"
Arrgh.

Blonde hair, good lookin'
Try'n' to get me hooked
Wants me to marry, get a home
Settle down, write a book
Arrgh.

Same thing, ev'ry day
Gettin' up, goin' to school
No need of me complainin'
My objection's over ruled
Arrgh.

Pay phone, somethin's wrong
Dime gone, will mail
Oughtta sue the op'rator for tellin' me a tale
Arrgh.

Been to Yokohama, been fightin' in the war
Army bunk, army chow
Army clothes, army car
Arrgh.

Workin' in the fillin' station
Too many tasks
"Wipe the windows, check the tires, check the oil dollar gas"
Arrgh.

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SUCH A NIGHT

LINCOLN CHASE

It was a night
Oh what a night it was
It really was such a night
The moon was bright
Oh how bright it was
It really was such a night
The night was alive with stars above
Oh when she kissed me I had to fall in love.

It was a kiss
Oh what a kiss it was
It really was such a kiss
Oh how she could kiss
Oh what a kiss it was
It really was such a kiss
Just the thought of her lips sets me a-fire
I reminisce and I'm filled with desire.

But I gave my heart to her in sweet surrender
How well I remember I'll always remember
Oh what a night
Oh what a night it was, it really was
Such a night
Came the dawn and my heart and her love and the night was gone
But I'll never forget-a that kiss-a
That kiss in the moonlight
Oh such a kiss, such a night.

But I gave my heart to her in sweet surrender
How well I remember
I'll always remember
Oh that night

Oh what a night it was
It really was such a night
When we kissed I had to fall in love
Well she's gone, gone, gone
Yeah she's gone, gone, gone
Came the dawn, dawn, dawn and my love was gone
But before that dawn, yes before that dawn
And before that dawn oh oh oh yeah such a night.

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BLUE MOON OVER KENTUCKY

BILL MONROE

Blue moon, blue moon, blue moon
Keep a-shinin' bright
Blue moon, keep on a-shinin' bright
You're gonna bring-a me back-a my baby tonight
Blue moon keep a-shinin' bright.

I said blue moon over Kentucky
To keep on shining
Shine on the one that's gone and left me blue
I said blue moon over Kentucky to keep on shining
Shine on the one that's gone and left me blue
Well, ha-it was on one moonlight night
Stars shinin' bright
Whisper on high "love said goodbye"
Blue moon over Kentucky, keep on shining
Shine on the one that's gone and left me blue.

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SPANISH EYES

CHARLES SINGLETON
EDDIE SNYDER
BERT KAEMPFERT

Blue Spanish eyes
Teardrops are falling from your Spanish eyes
Please, please don't cry
This is just adios and not goodbye
Soon I'll return
Bringing you all the love your heart can hold
Please say si si
Say you and your Spanish eyes will wait for me.

Blue Spanish eyes
Prettiest eyes in all of Mexico
True Spanish eyes
Please smile for me once more before I go
Soon I'll return
Bringing you all the love your heart can hold
Please say si si
Say you and your Spanish eyes will wait for me
Spanish eyes, wait for me, say si si.

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ELVIS FROM THE BEGINNING

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ELVIS PETITION

I _____ support the petition below to declare August 16 "National Elvis Presley Day".

My signature shows that I support the declaring of August 16th "National Elvis Presley Day", to honor Elvis the King throughout all 50 states.

Name _____

Address _____

City State Zip _____

These petitions will be forwarded to President Jimmy Carter.

DO YOU KNOW WHO I AM?

BOBBY RUSSELL

Do you know who I am
Have you any idea who I am
Yes, it's been quite awhile
And it's so good to see you again
It's so dark in this place that I can't see your face
May we leave
Oh, I see; does he know who I am, and what once was between you and me?

Do you know how I've tried
Have you any idea how I've tried not to keep you inside
Do you know darling how much I've cried
I remember you said that you had to forget about me and be free
Do you know who I am, or have you forgot about me?

Do you think there's a chance you and I could start over anew
Is there a prayer you still care or has it just been too long and we're through
Well, what about you and him
Oh, he's only a friend
Well, I see there's still a chance for me
Maybe some other time and some other place
With our old love in your heart
And a smile on your face
You will know who I am
When that time comes, you'll know who I am.

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IN THE GHETTO

MAC DAVIS

As the snow flies on a cold and grey Chicago mornin'
A poor little baby child is born in the ghetto
And his mama cries
'Cause if there's one thing that she don't need it's another hungry mouth to feed
In the ghetto
People, don't you understand the child needs a helping hand or he'll grow to be an angry young man some day
Take a look at you and me are we too blind to see?
Or do we simply turn our heads and look the other way?
Well, the world turns
And a hungry little boy with a runny nose plays in the street as the cold wind blows
In the ghetto.

And his hunger burns
So he starts to roam the streets at night and he learns how to steal and he learns how to fight
In the ghetto
And then one night in desperation, a young man breaks away
He buys a gun, steals a car tries to run but he don't get far, and his mama cries
As a crowd gathers 'round an angry young man, face down in the street with a gun in his hand
In the ghetto
As her young man dies on a cold and grey Chicago mornin' another little baby child is born
In the ghetto
And his mama cries.

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ONLY THE STRONG SURVIVE

KENNY GAMBLE
LEON HUFF
JERRY BUTLER

I remember my first love affair
And somehow or another the whole darn thing went wrong
And my mama had some great advice
So I thought I'd put it in the words of this song
I can still hear her saying.
Boy oh I see you sittin' up there all alone
Crying your eyes out 'cause the woman that you love is gone
Oh there's no need, there's no need
For a whole lot of trouble in your life
Oh so listen to me and get up off your knees
'Cause only the strong survive
That's what she said, only the strong survive, only the strong survive.
You've got to be strong
You'd better hold on
Don't go around your head hung down
I wouldn't let the little girl know
Wouldn't let her know that she made me feel like a clown
There a whole lot of girls looking for a good man like you
Oh but you'll never meet 'em if you give up now
And say your life is through
Then she said, only the strong survive, only the strong survive
You've got to be a man
You gotta make a stand
Then she said, only the strong survive.

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THE PROMISED LAND

CHUCK BERRY

I left my home in Norfolk Virginia
California on my mind
I strattled that Greyhound and rode him into Raleigh
And on across Caroline
We stopped at Charlotte and we bypassed Rockhill
We never was a minute late
We was ninety miles out of Atlanta by sundown
Rollin' out of Georgia state
We had motor trouble
That turned into a struggle
Half-way across Alabam
And that hound broke down
And left us all stranded in downtown Birmingham.
Right away I bought me a thru train ticket
Ridin' across Mississippi clean
And I was on that midnight flyer out of Birmingham
Smokin' into New Orleans
Somebody help me get out of Louisiana
Just to help me get to Houston Town
There are people there who care a little about me
And they won't let a poor boy down
Sure as you're born they bought me a silk suit
And put luggage in my hand
And I woke up high over Albuquerque
On a jet to the promised land.
Workin' on a T-bone steak
I had a party flyin' over to the golden state
When the pilot told us in thirteen minutes
He would get us at the terminal gate
Swing low chariot
Come down easy
Taxi to the terminal line
Cut your engines and cool your wings
And let me make it to the telephone
Los Angeles give me Norfolk Virginia
Tied Water 4-10-0-0
Tell the folks back home
This is the promised land callin'
And the poor boy's on the line.

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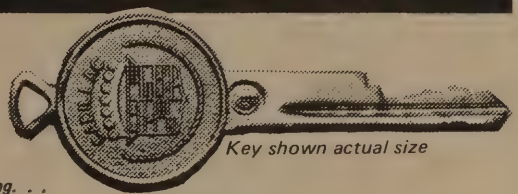
ELVIS "FIRST CADILLAC" PENDANT

a MUST for your keepsake collection!



Key shown actual size

Pendant 5/8" wide

$9.95

A story based on personal memories of Memphis, Tennesee, residents:

Elvis' first brand new Cadillac! Certainly the first he would have customized just for him. It sat new and shining in the sleek showroom of Southern Motors, the Memphis Cadillac dealer. Its beauty caught the eye and the fancy of the promising up-and-coming 21 year old singer. His career was just beginning its rise, just beginning to make his childhood dreams come true. What better way to feel like a Star?

Upon entering the showroom, Elvis asked a salesman if he could take the shining convertible out for a test drive. The salesman, looking down his nose at the sideburns, the tight jeans and the heavy, hooded dark eyes, looked pained as he refused Elvis' simple request. Bluntly, he asked Elvis to leave the showroom.

Instead of leaving, Elvis wandered around the building, coming upon a youg boy who was washing down cars with a hose. Elvis asked him how much money he was making washing cars. The boy answered: "Thirty dollars a week." Elvis promptly took him by the hand, walked back out into the showroom and asked to be taken to the Manager's office. Once inside the office, Elvis made a simple, direct statement: "I want the El Dorado convertible. I'm gonna' take it with me now, and I'm gonna' pay you cash money right now for it. But this young man", he said, pointing to the young car washer, "he gets the commission on the sale!"

Elvis drove off in his Cadillac. He would own many fine, fancy cars in the years to come. As his fame and fortune grew, he would have chauffeurs, friends and bodyguards drive for him. . . but his fantastic career was just beginning. . . and this was the car he drove himself as he made the steady climb towards stardom. As his income increased, he seemed to lavish a good part of it on his favorite car, as evidenced in the customizing. . . the car was painted purple, the floor covered in mouton fur, dyed purple, and his initials "E.P.", entwined with a guitar and two musical notes inscribed in leather adorned the floormats and overhead. The upholstery boasted a popular 50's style—white roll and pleated leather. Elvis was still driving this Cadillac the first day he drove through the gates of Graceland the mansion he bought for his beloved mother, Gladys — the mansion where he was to die alone in those quiet hours after dawn on August 16th, 1977.

The famous Cadillac is now undergoing complete restoration to its former glory, and will be exhibited all over the country. The parts that could not be used in the restoration and had to be replaced, have been melted down, making small metal pearls which have been mounted into a beautiful heart shaped pewter finished pendant. . so that you can wear it close to your heart. The old worn ignition key, used for many years, has been duplicated into shining gold replicas for your key chain, charm bracelet or as a necklace. . . and can be used to turn a duplicate of ignition lock on Elvis' Cadillac while it is on display throughout the country.

Fate delivered its untimely blow in mid-August. Elvis is gone from us. The golden voice forever stilled. For those of us who loved him, and will continue to miss him, we now have something of his to keep with us always.

EACH PENDANT CONTAINS A PORTION OF METAL FROM ELVIS' FIRST CADILLAC!

PLUS...FREE! if you act NOW...

- HISTORY OF ELVIS' FIRST CADILLAC
- REPRODUCTION OF BILL-OF-SALE, includes Elvis' handwriting and signature

Check or money order to:

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CHARLTON BUILDING
DERBY, CT. 06418

____ ELVIS "FIRST CADILLAC" PENDANT(S)
@ $9.95 + .50 handling TOTAL $10.45

____ ELVIS "FIRST CADILLAC" KEY(S)
@ $9.95 + .50 handling TOTAL $10.45

____ ELVIS COMBINATION PENDANT & KEY
@ $17.50 + .50 handling TOTAL $18.00

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ON THE ROAD WITH THE KING

By Valerie Ridenour

No one knew, back in those early days, how the young Mississippi boy was going to change the shape of music — least of all, his band. It wasn't much of a band by today's standards; only two musicians, Scotty Moore and the late Bill Black, accompanied young Elvis in those early gigs. But though small in number, the group were giants musically. As the money and prestige increased, more and more pickers were added until the band reached the mammoth proportion that played the final concerts. The last days were quite different from the first. Elvis was the acknowledged king of rock 'n' roll, famous the world over, rich beyond his dreams, and often a terribly lonely man.

Tony Brown began playing with the Elvis Presley show in 1974, with a group called Voice. Tony recalls, "Our job was to play on the shows and to go visit him (Elvis) whenever he wanted us to. We'd just hang around the house and play hymns or rock 'n' roll songs late at night." Tony played acoustic piano for the group, which also carried an electric piano player. Tony continues, "I was on retainer for a year with Voice. He'd call us up; like, we'd get a call on a Wednesday night saying, 'Elvis wants you all out at the house to fly to LA.' So we'd fly to LA and hang around for a week. We might sing for him, or we might not do anything but ride around on motorcycles or go shopping. Then there were some times we'd visit him every night. We'd be around the piano for a couple of hours and just sing old hymns. We'd just go out there and keep him company — just be a friend. We got to know him real well. He was a nice person."

Tony gave us his personal impressions of the man he gave that friendship to so willingly. "I think he was a super guy. He was a down - to - earth guy who just happened to be filthy rich. He was very talented. The life he led had its lonely moments, because he couldn't get out in public. He got accustomed to that kind of life. I don't think he was all that lonely as people say. Housewives, I'm sure, must be lonelier than Elvis ever was. He always had lots of people around."

Elvis wasn't much for rehearsals. In fact, Tony reminisced about going on stage the first night: "My first night was also my first rehearsal. I never got the opportunity to rehearse with him. He was a hard guy to tie down. Playing with him was a trip. It was like a lifelong ambition fulfilled. I felt real secure. It was the best tour, best environment. Everything was taken care of so nice. All the hotels were the best, and the airplanes — we flew everywhere. It was all together."

While Tony Brown played acoustic piano, the electric piano was the province of David Briggs, a veteran session

Tony Brown and Lynda Thompson

The Jordanaires ... (Top L-R) Gordon Stoker, Ray Walker, (Bottom L-R) Hoyt Hawkins, Neal Matthews.

musician and co-owner of Quadrafonic Studio in Nashville. His friendship with Presley lured Briggs on the road for quite some time, but in February of '77, in Arizona, Bobby Ogden joined the show in Briggs' place. Bob remained with the group until the end. Ogden joined the troupe to get away from Nashville and country music for a while.

"This was a nice opportunity to meet a lot of interesting people", Bobby informed us. "There were some excellent musicians. There were about forty of us in the group; some real heavy - type people like James Burton, Ronnie Tutt, Jerry Garcia, and Jerry Shook, the bass player who used to be with the Association."

When asked what Elvis was like, Ogden responded simply, "He was a star. We didn't do much running around together. He had his plane and we had ours. We got together once a day, on stage. It was a big show. We (the musicians) got a lot of 'takes' that nobody else saw, inside stuff going on on stage, water fights and stuff like that." Bobby said that Elvis liked to put people in the spotlight, often when it wasn't expected. "He'd say, 'Tony, play me something classical,' right there in front of twenty thousand people; or 'Bobby, play something different.' I'd start into something, and he'd say, 'No, no, no. Play something funky.' He was having his fun."

It's funny how a man will impress different people in such different ways. We've seen the observations of two who shared the last days with Elvis. Let's probe deeper. Ray Walker of the Jordanaires graciously consented to share his memories with us. Ray's friendship with Elvis and his professional association go back a long way. That association began in the studio, when Elvis recorded, "A Fool Such As I." It was Ray Walker's very first record session. Ray didn't intend to become a musician, although he led the singing at his church. A graduate of David Lipscomb College, Walker was a young schoolteacher in Nashville. It was a chance phone call about school affairs that led Ray to the famed Jordanaires quartet. Ray was frequently asked if he'd go on the road. His response was that the only way he'd go was with a quartet, and that the only quartet he knew of that was free of scandal was the Jordanaires. Walker's deep religious beliefs make it impossible for him to associate with charlatans. When a friend called to ask if Ray would consider joining the group, he replied, "If you think I can be a Christian and work with them, give them my name." Gordon Stoker made that call, and after Wednesday - night church services, Ray Walker met with the group. In a few days they called to ask Ray to join the group and go to California to make some records.

Ray joined the famed vocal group in 1958. He told us, "We've been together longer than any singing quartet without changing members: nineteen and a half years. We just don't spend our time arguing. We're all family men and church

Photo Credit: Jim Morris/King's Court

Photo Credit: Jim Morris/King's Court

people. Gordon is on the board of Belmont College; Neal works in church; and Hoyt has a religious background. His dad had a quartet." Perhaps it was a mutual respect for the Almighty that drew Elvis and the Jordanaires together. Ray Walker recalls, "He had a religious background himself. He had a way of communication that has never been equaled. I said to the boys, 'He's not the greatest singer in the world; he's got a strange name and a strange sound for this day and time, but he's a communicator. We could do well to learn from him. " Ray played Elvis' records for his class, not suspecting he was to play a large part in his life and career.

It was exciting at first, recording with Elvis. "I was brand new with the quartet and wondering if I was gonna fit," Ray remembered. "When I met him, I talked to him just like I would anybody else," Walker has always been in public life and feels that "I'm that way about anybody; we put our britches on the same way. I go at a person, giving him all the breaks he needs and deserves, and I expect the same." Ray believes that it's a disservice to treat someone like a 'star,' someone above ordinary folks. "That's no way to keep them up there", Ray commented, "That's what finally happened to him. It got him into a dream world, and he couldn't cope with it. We weren't 'yes men.' We were good friends with him, all of us. We loved him for what he was and regardless of what he was." There were people who advised Ray to be careful what he said to Elvis, to think about his answers. Ray felt then and still feels, "How long do you have to think about the truth? All you got to do is think about the way you tell it. We had a rapport, because he knew I wasn't gonna fishtail on him. He was a very warm human being, and he had a naivety about him that was to cause him trouble in later years."

Elvis Presley & the Jordanaires ... L — Gordon Stoker, Hoyt Hawkins, Neal Matthews, Ray Walker.

Elvis wanted the Jordanaires to play the International Hotel in Las Vegas with him in 1969, but the group had reached the stage of wanting to stay at home with their families. Ray Walker explained the situation to Elvis, who answered, "I wish I had that much reason to stay home." Ray Walker states, "When you can

Photo Credit: Jim Morris/King's Court

remember your roots, but you have no central goal higher than yourself that you feel like you can reasonably attain, then you can lose all perspective."

D.J. Fontana began his career in Shreveport, Louisiana, playing drums on the famed "Louisiana Hayride." Fontana explained, "I was the staff drummer. They'd been in once or twice. Scotty and Bill came in. They didn't have a drummer at the time. They asked me if I'd back them up and I said sure. They were gonna make a little tour of Lufkin, Longview, to Arkansas, Southern states, and they asked would I go. I said sure, I ain't got nothing else to do. So that's how it really started." The gig that started so inauspiciously continued for sixteen years of touring, recording, and making movies. D.J. wasn't sure what to think of Elvis at first.

"I'd never seen an act like that. Sometimes the crowd were skeptical, too; they didn't know what he was doing. Bill was the comedian. Sometimes, if the night was slow, he'd get out there and perk it up. We never realized it, the guys in the band, we were gone so much. We'd be like in St. Louis today and Chicago tomorrow; we didn't get to read newspapers. We always had to get in the car and get to the next job." Elvis' band simply didn't realize how popular the group had become until they began to play a great many television dates. "We first did Jackie Gleason's Jimmy and Tommy Dorsey shows. The response was fantastic, but it was still get in the car, drive to Richmond, Virginia ... we never really knew how big he was."

Fontana left the show in '69 to come to Nashville and play sessions. "Elvis wasn't doing any concerts then, just a little recording, so it wasn't any problem. Then he wanted us to go to Vegas with him. We'd have to be gone ten weeks. You know, if you live in Nashville, if you leave town for ten weeks, you're finished for a while (playing sessions). You have to establish yourself all over. I had a couple of years, and I didn't want to lose that. Scotty had the studio; it was hard for him to get away, hard for me, and the Jordanaires, so we told him we couldn't go. I heard later that he got kind of mad about it." D.J. ran into Elvis at the RCA Victor studio in Nashville. "I went over to see him and explain it to him, make sure he understood. He wasn't mad; it had hurt his feelings that we couldn't go. You had to really know the man for years to know his feelings. HE was very sensitive. He said he'd talked around to some of the other musicians and asked different people, and didn't blame me. He was great about it.

"We didn't see each other very often", D.J. reminisced, "but we were close friends. There was a whole bunch of us went down right after the baby was born. We brought presents. Of course they didn't need it, but he was thrilled to death. He was so glad we came to see the baby. In fact, he was up in her room, rocking her. It was just fantastic. He was playing with her. We stayed several hours. Every time we'd go there, he'd say, 'Come on, I want to show you the house again.' Every time I'd go down, there was something new. He was proud of that house."

When D.J. heard of his friend's untimely death, he was shocked. "I thought he might have been sick for the last four or five years. I'm not a doctor, but I just think he was. I think he was mentally wore out. Me and my wife talked about it. I said, 'Hon, he's tired. The pressure's getting him. He should quit.' But he wouldn't. He wanted his fans. He loved his fans. He was happy doing what he was

Photo Credit: Jim Morris/King's Court

doing. I'm sorry it happened; if he'd slowed down for a year or two ... he was too young to die." Fontana's words reflected all our feelings as he touchingly said, "The good Lord wanted him, and I figure He knows best, but He took a great man. A lot of people don't know that. They read all these books — slop, garbage. He wasn't that bad a man. He was so funny; he didn't really want us to drink. He didn't drink. He didn't smoke. We respected him enough; we knew we had to be in contact with the kids, the mothers and fathers, his fans. We never drank while we were working. Afterwards we'd slip off somewhere and get us a beer. He'd call us up and say, 'Hey boys, why don't you all come up?' We'd say, 'we're down here drinking; we'll see you tomorrow.' You have to know the man for years. Everybody changes, but nobody changes completely. I think if they'd left him alone, he'd have gone back to his grass roots, but there were all those people around him."

People who wanted something surrounded Elvis. D.J. Fontana believes the reason they remained such close friends was because, "I never went down unless I wanted to see him. Just to see him, not because I needed something. People conned him, but you didn't have to. He took those people off the streets, gave them jobs. They didn't have any money in their pockets, but all they had to do was sign his name."

People cared about Elvis Presley. Those who knew his warmth and generosity on a personal level loved him. His devoted fans adored him. He was American royalty, the boy from Mississippi. We will never see his kind again.

FELTON JARVIS REMEMBERS ELVIS

(continued from page 24)

stayed out of it and let you do it your way, but it ain't working. You're dying."

"So he called some big kidney specialist and doctors and so forth, and a week later they transplanted me. And the doctor told me, 'Well, sometimes all it takes is a word from somebody like Elvis Presley. He can get a lot done if people only know he's interested and cares.' "

As is the case with all kidney patients awaiting transplants, Felton's operation was performed only when a suitable donor was found. "I was easy to match," Jarvis admits, "What they were evidently doing — I don't really know this and I shouldn't say it, but evidently what they were doing — they had kidneys that were fitting, but they were giving them to other people and putting me aside till they found out that Elvis was interested and wanted me transplanted. And, as I say, within seven days I was transplanted."

Small wonder that Felton regards Presley as "the kindest and most generous man I ever met in my life. You had to be careful as to what you said around Elvis. For instance, I could be around Elvis and maybe say, 'Boy, I saw the new Cadillacs and they were sure beautiful.' Well, if he heard me say that, or I made such a statement, he'd go out and buy me a Cadillac. I mean, just from a little remark like that. So you didn't want to leech off of him, or live off of him. You had to be very careful, because anything you said he would take and try to do something about it. If he thought this was your wish, or this was what you wanted, or this is what it would take to make you happy, he'd try to go get it for you."

Elvis' altruism extended to simple gestures of support. One time prior to Felton's transplant, the producer became physically ill in Lake Tahoe due to the city's high altitude. Presley hadn't even opened and, though Jarvis' absence would weigh heavily, Elvis immediately chartered a jet out of there.

"I think the reason he gave so much," Felton observes, was because Presley "was so poor when he started out in life. He became a millionaire when he was like 19 years old, and I think that he knew money didn't buy happiness, or money didn't buy friends, or money didn't buy anything. It was a material thing. I think he realized that better than anybody, but he felt that the people around him — the people that worked with him and the people he'd run into and so forth, that he gave things to — I think he thought that they thought this is what it would take to make them happy: a new car, a new house, a new diamond ring, or whatever. And he was trying to show them, in a way, that it wasn't — that after they got it, they could see that it wasn't that big a thing; that they could have done without it."

Presley found that the chief advantage of having money is the choice afforded those with financial independence. For example, Jarvis recalls that Elvis "could be sitting in his living room, watching television, and decide he wanted to go to Las Vegas, and go get on his airplane and go to Las Vegas — just on the spur of the moment. When you're Elvis Presley you can do whatever you want to do. He did what we all wished we could do. He didn't do anything he didn't want to do, and he did what he wanted to do. He didn't have to plan it. He didn't wait. He could take off and do it. He had airplanes sitting out at the airport. He had pilots sitting there waiting for him, and if he wanted to go to Las Vegas on the spur of the moment, he'd say, 'Pack me a bag. We're going to Las Vegas. Let's go!' And he would be gone."

Apart from Presley's mobility, "what he really enjoyed was being on stage in front of people. Live people. Not cameras, but people, because when he did something good and he hit a high note on the end of something and these people responded, he was receiving something back. He was charging his battery. I've seen him go on stage with a 103-degree fever, but people had come a long way and made a lot of plans to see Elvis Presley. It was a big deal to them, and he hated to say, 'I'm sorry, but I've got a 103-degree fever and I'm not going to sing'."

One stage that Elvis never sang from was that of the Grand Ole Opry. Years ago, according to Felton, Elvis came down to the Ryman Auditorium and auditioned for the late Jim Denny. "He was told that he wasn't good enough, and went back home crying to Memphis." Nearly a decade later, Presley, by now the recognized "King of Rock 'N' Roll" (though he was known to cringe at that description) took a bow from the stage of the Saturday night radio show.

Photo Credit: Jim Morris/King's Court

Jarvis tells us that Elvis loved Hank Williams' music, but that his musical tastes ranged from John Lee Hooker to Mario Lanza. Elvis liked to laugh at the antics of Peter Sellers or Monty Python, while his favorite foods were simple staples like cheeseburgers and chopped sirloin. The singer, who was a teetotaler, loved automobiles, pretty clothes, and jewelry (especially diamonds and black star sapphires). Other possessions included an 880 Convair and a chauffeur-driven car. Of Presley's lifestyle Felton philosophizes, "It was just a fantasy that he was able to live. He was able to do what all of us sit back and fantasize about."

The outpouring of love, shock, and grief in the wake of Elvis' passing has been astonishing to Jarvis. "I knew he was very famous and I knew he was very great. I knew he had a lot of fans — but still, what has happened is just unbelievable.

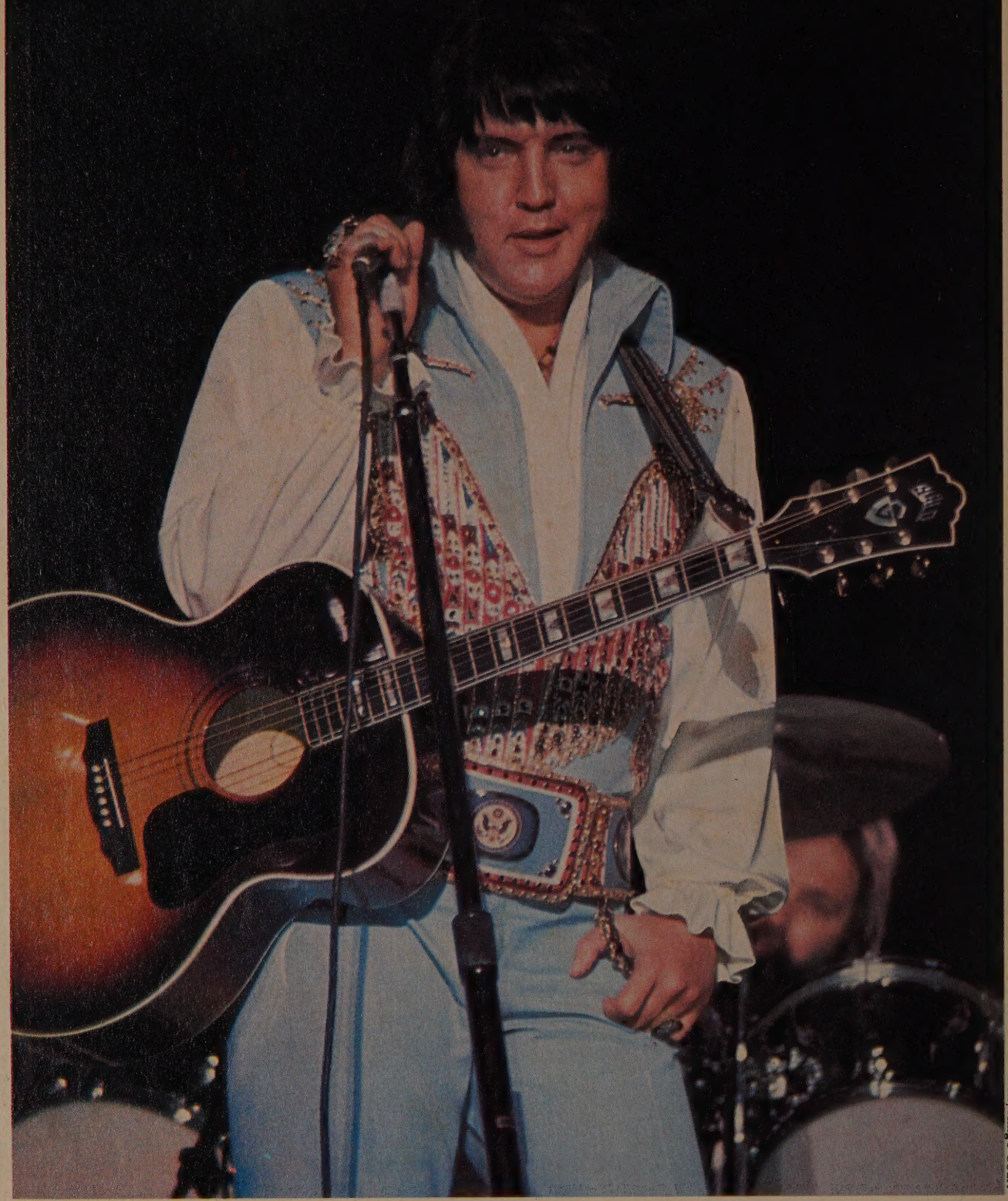


Photo Credit: Jim Morris/King's Court

You know, I saw it all happen. I was in the middle of it, but still — it's just amazing, the magnitude of his popularity. I think he really would have been surprised."

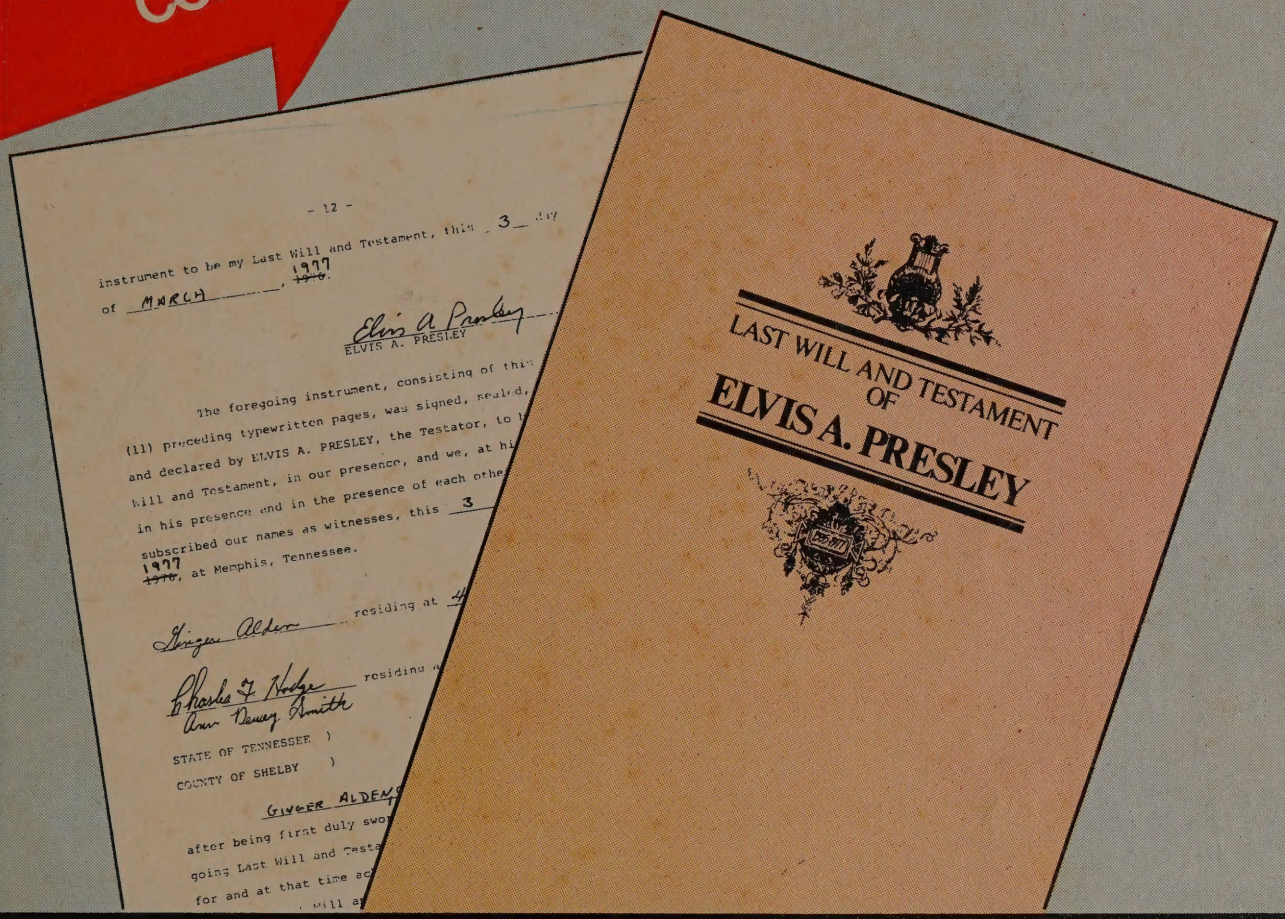
Felton had harsh words for the authors of *Elvis, What Happened?*, a posthumously published expose which Presley had gotten wind of a year before he died. "I don't even want to comment on that book. I haven't read it, don't intend to read it. I knew Elvis Presley for what he was, and that's all that matters to me. I don't care what they want to say ... Elvis was heartbroken over the book. Not so much about what they were going to write, but the fact that they were just writing it. He was hurt by the fact that somebody he thought was his friend would go out and write a trash book like that. Elvis was a lot bigger than that book, and that's all I can say about it. I feel sorry for the people that wrote it, because I'd hate to have to carry that scar on my conscience for the rest of my life. All Elvis did for them — I could go on and on and tell you the things he gave them, the things he did for them — to him they were friends. And friends don't do other friends that way."

As for the staggering number of tribute records which were released on the heels of Elvis' death, Felton opines, "There were so many people that were in the studio the night Elvis died that said they loved him so much. Well, if they loved him, no way they could have sung the night he died, because I happened to love him and I couldn't talk the night he died, much less sing!

"The most treasured thing in my whole life is being able to call Elvis a friend."

SPECIAL COLLECTOR'S COPY

LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT OF ELVIS A. PRESLEY


- 12 -
instrument to be my Last Will and Testament, this 3 day
of MARCH, 1977.
Elvis A Presley
ELVIS A. PRESLEY
The foregoing instrument, consisting of this
(11) preceding typewritten pages, was signed, sealed,
and declared by ELVIS A. PRESLEY, the Testator, to
Will and Testament, in our presence, and we, at his
in his presence and in the presence of each other
subscribed our names as witnesses, this 3
1977, at Memphis, Tennessee.
residing at
residing
STATE OF TENNESSEE)
COUNTY OF SHELBY)
after being first duly swo
going Last Will and Testa
for and at that time ac
LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT
OF
ELVIS A. PRESLEY

A personal copy of the SIGNED Last Will & Testament of ELVIS PRESLEY is now available by mail.

This is the will you have read about in the paper and heard discussed on National TV. It was signed by Elvis himself on March 3, 1977, just a few months before his untimely death.

As an historical document, you'll find it fascinating as you learn how his estate, valued at many millions of dollars, is to be distributed among his father, daughter Lisa Marie and grandmother. If you're an Elvis fan, you'll treasure Elvis's signature on the 12th page of the 13-page document.

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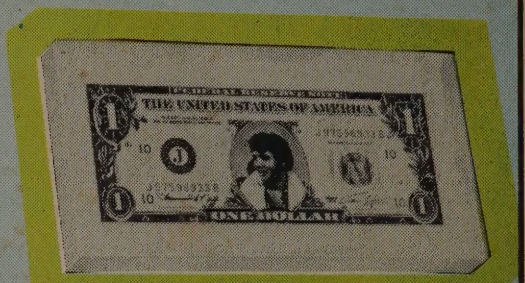

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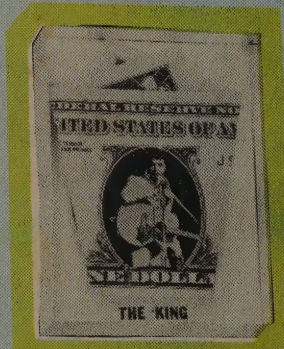

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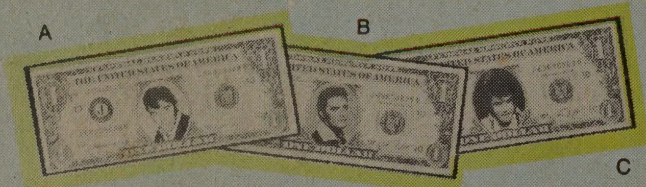

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